



AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

WEEKLY

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rule the world

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Red
Devils
claim
Aussie
soul!



SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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REMINDER

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*Fax 02 98777888

*Write to Bruce McAvaney at PO Box Epping, NSW 2121

Remember, Soccer won the survey for most popular football code in their recent Net site poll.

COPA AMERICA

Brazil has made it through to the Semi-Finals of the Copa America after defeating old rivals Argentina 2-1.

Ronaldo and Rivaldo both scored for Brazil after they trailed to an early Argentine goal.

For more news on the match, turn to page 21



The US team are the official champions of the world. Full story page 25.

UNITED TOLD, NO SHOW NO DOUGH

The Manchester United tour of Australia has struck a problem only a matter of days out from the first match in Melbourne.

The Rivkin Group, promoters of the Manchester United tour have warned United that they may not get paid out unless the whole treble champion winning squad of last year attends including manager Sir Alex Ferguson and David Beckham.

It has been reported for weeks that Beckham will be on his honeymoon with his new wife instead of travelling to Australia for the two match tour against the Socceroos.

Reports were that the Beckhams were offered a honeymoon in Australia as long as David appeared on the pitch although it seems that the offer has been rejected.

The Rivkin Group has told United that they will only receive \$2million, half of the \$4million that was offered to the Red Devils, if United does not turn up with both Beckham and Ferguson.

This has turned from being a most momentous occasion for Australian soccer to becoming a nightmare for all.

Alex Ferguson on Sunday (July 11) on national television said that he is not coming to Australia for personal reasons.

This has left the promoters without one of its big attractions, this along with the Beckham saga.

The Rivkin Group has been involved in last minute discussions with the United management in an attempt to convince both Sir Alex and David to come down to Australia.

On the other side of the coin, Soccer Australia has been left in a bad position.

Overseas clubs have once again denied our Aussie stars the chance to compete in the two game tour as many teams are returning to pre-season training, therefore the squad is at best, below strength.

The media has been highly critical of SA for not taking a hard stand on the clubs but the fact is that they have no power over this situation.

SA have complained to FIFA but the decision still remains.

A letter sent last week by the SA stated that they had approached all the Aussie

players who played last month against the World Stars and most had accepted the offer put to them to play against United.

SA has sent letters to the clubs insisting that the players be released.

These two games were deliberately scheduled as to not interfere with any player commitments or league fixtures but the clubs however have not responded back to SA meaning that the players will not be released.

Australia has been put into the middle of the club versus country fight before, and on the greater part, the clubs win out forcing the SA to select a below par team although one which has the talent to do well.

Soccer Australia must be congratulated for trying to get the players back and instead of criticising them, maybe we



Beckham... will he or won't he?

should be looking at FIFA for some answers.

Why haven't they stepped in and made a decision?

What is more important than the club versus country issue which always seems to affect Australia?

Meanwhile, reports have also surfaced during the week that some of our biggest named Socceroo stars who only a matter of weeks ago played for their nation, have now requested for an appearance fee to show up against United.

Figures floating around ranged as high as \$100,000 for both games to a certain Premier League player.

It would be crazy for the Rivkin Group to pay these amounts of figures to the players and if all asked for that amount, then the promoters would be in debt for the rest of their lives.

It now seems that it is becoming a hassle for some players to represent their country instead of being an honour.

With all this arguing and conflict, how will the event be held amongst the fans?

Those who have been hurt the most over these conflicts have been the fans as most tickets were sold prior to the surfacing of these problems.

They are the ones who have paid out a large amount of money in the knowledge that they were going to see the best of both sides.

Well thanks alot FIFA and all the clubs who have helped to ruin this tour thank you.

Australian News

DRAW FOR JUNIOR WORLD CUP

This is the draw for the finals of World Junior Football Championships to be held in New Zealand from November 10-27.

Group A

Nov 10- New Zealand v US
Nov 11- Poland v Uruguay
Nov 13- NZ v Uruguay, Poland v US
Nov 16- NZ v Poland, US v Uruguay
All matches to be held in Auckland

Group B

Nov 11- Ghana v Spain, Mexico v Thailand
Nov 13- Ghana v Mexico, Spain v Thailand
Nov 16- Ghana v Thailand, Mexico v Spain
All matches to be held in Napier

Group C

Nov 12
 Australia/Bahrain v Brazil, Germany v Mali
Nov 14
 Brazil v Mali, Australia/Bahrain v Germany
Nov 17
 Brazil v Germany, Australia/Bahrain v Mali
All matches to be held in Christchurch

Group D

Nov 12
 Burkina Faso v Jamaica, Paraguay v Qatar
Nov 14
 Burkina Faso v Qatar, Jamaica v Paraguay
Nov 17
 Burkina Faso v Paraguay, Jamaica v Qatar
All matches to be held in Dunedin

Quarter-Finals

Nov 20

(Match 25)

Group A winners v Group B runners-up,
 Auckland
 (Match 26)

Group B winners v Group A runners-up,
 Napier
Nov 21

(Match 27)

Group C winners v Group D runners-up,
 Christchurch
 (Match 28)

Group D winners v Group C runners-up,
 Dunedin

Semi-Finals

Nov 24

Semi-Final 1-
 match 25 winners v match 27 winners,
 Christchurch

Semi-Final 2-
 match 26 winners v match 28 winners,
 Auckland

FINAL,
Third-place play-off
November 27,
Auckland



ROAD TO WORLD CUP GETS EVEN TOUGHER

Australia's passage for the 2002 World Cup has now become a nightmare after it was decided that we will have to face a South American team in order to qualify for the World Cup finals to be held in Asia.

This decision comes after the world governing body, FIFA, decided to give the Asian continent a fifth chance to qualify meaning that instead of playing an Asian team, we will now have to go through South America to qualify.

Australia's possible opponents, should they get that far could be one of a number of teams including Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay or even Chile, this depending on how the South American qualifiers pan out at the end of next year.

We all remember that last time we were asked to qualify through South America, the Australians came up against the might of Diego Maradona and his Argentinian side.

Although the Socceroos stood up and made themselves heard to all with two

great performances, we still managed to miss qualification.

And no one will forget our last attempt to qualify as we were given a much easier road than both 1994 and now 2002, that through Asia but once again we bombed it and were left to watch the World Cup on TV.

So what chance do we have of qualifying through South America?

The conditions that we are expected to face in the continent will be nothing more than difficult.

The quality of Australia's likely opponents are that of a higher scale than our previous task of Iran, and the Aussies will find themselves between a rock and a hard place as they take on the might of South America.

But before that, we must concentrate on being Oceania champions and that means beating our best friends, New Zealand.

All this bad news for Australia has come about by the Asian confederation demanding an extra spot for their region

which means that Australia cannot play an Asian team as it will mean automatic qualification for a sixth team, that is if the other play-off game between an Asian team and a European team is won by the former.

So how will the 32 berths in the 2002 World Cup finals will be allocated:

- **Europe:** 13 guaranteed places; in addition France automatically qualify as holders

- **Asia:** two guaranteed places; in addition Japan and South Korea qualify automatically as co-hosts

- **South America:** four guaranteed places

- **Africa:** five guaranteed places

- **CONCACAF (North and Central America and Caribbean):** three guaranteed places

The two remaining places will be determined by playoffs

- **First** playoff between a European team and an Asian team

- **Second** playoff between a South American team and an Oceanian team

KINGS LET INTO LEAGUE

It's official. The 1999/2000 Ericsson Cup will be comprised of 17 teams after the World Governing Body FIFA approved the inclusion of the Auckland Kings.

The New Zealand based club has been granted admittance into the NSL for an initial period of two years.

This decision comes only two weeks after Soccer Australia included Parramatta Power into the league as well as giving all 15 other clubs a year to lift their game and meet a set criteria for inclusion into the 1999/2000 league.

The inclusion of Auckland into the competition will give the NSL some much needed overseas exposure as well as sponsorship dollars.



The Kings will make the National league a much stronger and competitive competition although the downfall for Australia is that this will only mean a stronger National team for New Zealand, the team that the Socceroos must face during their qualifying rounds for any World Cup campaign.

But on the domestic scene, the inclusion of both Auckland and Parramatta will mean a more professional competition as clubs fight for the corporate dollar, the one thing that many current teams lack.

Auckland will make their league debut in the Ericsson Cup in the first week of October as the new look

league starts up season 1999/2000 of the Ericsson Cup.

THE SOCCERWHOS???

Australia has announced a team of no names for the two match tour against Manchester United this week.

With the unavailability of overseas based players, the selectors have named a Socceroo squad that is mainly made up of our Olyroo squad.

SA has been in a dispute with the foreign clubs who are in pre-season training, to let the Australian players return home to play in the matches, although they have not come to the party and neither will the players.

Below is the squad of 20 to take on United this week.

Name	Position
Jason Petkovic	Goalkeeper
Michael Petkovic	Goalkeeper
Joe Didulica	Goalkeeper (Melbourne only)
Danny Milosevic	Goalkeeper (Sydney only)
Con Blasis	Defender
Jacob Burns	Defender

Name	Position
Simon Colosimo	Defender
Hayden Foxe	Defender
Dragi Nasteviski	Defender
Stephen Laybutt	Defender
Stan Lazaridis	Defender
Alex Tobin	Defender
Ross Aloisi	Midfielder
Brett Emerton	Midfielder
Vince Grella	Midfielder
Danny Tiatto	Midfielder
Kasey Wehrman	Midfielder
Zeljko Susa	Midfielder
Michael Curcija	Striker
Aurelio Vidmar	Striker
Clayton Zane	Striker

The Two Matches are as follows:

Thursday 15th July

Socceroos v Manchester United MCG 8.00pm

Sunday 18th July

Socceroos v Manchester United Stadium Australia 3.00pm

NORTHERN SPIRIT FOOTBALL CLUB

YOUTH TEAM TRIALS

1999/2000 SEASON

northern spirit
 f.c.

This New exciting NSL Club Invites
 Players turning 17 and 18 years for trials to
 our Apprenticeship Youth Team for this coming
 season, under the watchful eye of
 Head Coach, GRAHAM ARNOLD.

TRIAL DATES:

20th July, Tuesday 6:30pm
22nd July, Thursday 6:30pm
CHRISTIE PARK, North Ryde

All players must have permission from their
 existing Club in order to trial.

FOR INQUIRIES:

Please ring Soccer Office Ph: 9460 2187
 Youth Team Coach: Gary Van Egmond

Sharp Challenge Cup



MAN. UNITED

By Daniel Giorlando

The best team in the world, Manchester United, are on their way to Australia to play two games against the Socceroos in Melbourne on the 15th of July and on Sydney on the 18th.

Manchester United have grabbed the headlines in the past two months after they achieved the treble, League Champions, FA Cup winners and Champions League winners, all in one season, a feat which no one could have imagined let alone predicted at the start of the season.

United are bringing a full squad to Australia as they prepare for the season ahead, one which will see the English giants on top of the world but with every team trying to knock them off their mantle.

United's schedule for the coming year is one of the most hectic in history with the inclusion of a new World Club Championship in January of 2000 to be held in Brazil.

United's decision to attend the tournament, to represent Europe as the winner of the Champions League, has meant that the team has had to make some hard decisions over the past month.

The hardest was that to announce that they would not defend their FA Cup title, a decision that has angered supporters and officials all over the World.

The FA Cup is the most traditional and longest running competition in the world and the decision of the holders to pull out was a blow to the credibility of the competition as well as a blow to United's fellow premiership teams.

The decision however to play at the World Club

Challenge in preference to the FA Cup has also caused controversy as to the reason for this decision.

Many say that they have been forced to go to by England's World Cup 2006 bid who are desperate to bring the World Cup home in 2006.

Manchester United have denied these rumours and have clearly stated that they are going to Brazil to officially become the best team in the world.

The year however will be remembered for United's never say die attitude on the pitch and success which followed them around in both England and Europe.

The year started off well enough for United as they started 1999 on top of the league as well as qualifying for the Quarter-finals of the Champions League and the third round of the FA Cup.

United's first big test was against Inter Milan in the Champions League. United had traditionally struggled against their much fancied Italian opponents in recent history but United proved that all wrong with a great display of controlled football to sweep past one Italian team only to face another in the Semi's.

In the meantime, United still held top position in the league but Arsenal had come up to challenge for the title.

Both teams were to face off in an FA Cup semi, a game which produced one of the greatest goals in FA Cup history.

The first game between the two was a disappointing nil-all draw but the return game had everything.

Both teams showed that they were the best in England with free flowing, attacking football which was easy on the eye but not on the heart.

With the game locked at 1-1 and only minutes left on the clock, Arsenal were awarded a penalty and United's run in the FA Cup seemed over.

That was until, Dennis Bergkamp missed his chance and from their, the Gunners never looked in it and they were put out of their misery by Ryan Giggs.

Giggs took the ball from half-way, beat four defenders and then calmly slotted the ball into the top of the net.

United then went on to win the FA Cup final against Newcastle United as well as wrapping up the League title over Arsenal by only one point.

In between the FA Cup semi and United's double, they faced Juventus in the Champions league.

After being outclassed in the first leg of the tie in Manchester, United lucky to escape with a 1-1 draw, they travelled to Turin and what seemed an impossible task, win in Italy.

After 10 minutes, United were beaten after falling two goals behind. It should have been over, but that's when United began to play.

Goals from Keane and Yorke were enough to put United into the final and Andy Cole wrapped it up in the dying minutes to seal a historic win in Italy as well as the knowledge of a berth in the Final.

With two down and one to go, United were now believing in a historic treble. But only one thing stood in their way, Bayern Munich.

That night in the Spanish city of Barcelona will go down in the soccer scribes as one of the best ever games. The drama, the passion, the commitment and the tragedy of the night was brought to the fore as both teams fought as if their lives depended on it.

Bayern got the better of the earlier exchanges as they led 1-0 to an early goal and just as it looked as Bayern were to wrap it up, United were saved by either excellent goalkeeping or by the post.

With time up, United fans worldwide were telling themselves "two out of three isn't bad," but never bet against Manchester United.

The rest is history with two quick goals in the space of a minute in injury time. United were the kings of Europe.

And now they are coming to Australia and the Socceroos will have their work cut out for them.

So what of the squad that Sir Alex Ferguson is bringing to Australia. It is on paper a strong line-up as the team prepares for the season ahead but the question is, can the Socceroos compete considering they will have a below strength team due to club commitments by the majority of the team which played in the FIFA World Stars game.

United will arrive in Australia tomorrow, July 14.



SIR ALEX FERGUSON

THE UNITED SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

MARK BOSNICH



Bosnich completed his summer transfer deal from Aston Villa to United and the Australian has been left with some big boots to fill following the move of Peter Schmeichel to Sporting Lisbon.

Bosnich has played in the Premier League for almost a decade and it is expected that he will slot into goals without any problems.

Bosnich was the centre of a row between his new club and Australia over which team he was to play for during this tour.

Bosnich has decided for United and it will be his first game for the treble winning

champions.

Bosnich is expected to be a regular in the team but with the high expectations that Manchester demand, replacement keeper Raimond Van der Gouw will be waiting for any slip up from Bosnich.

We are all confident however that Bosnich will do no wrong as United fight for premiership glory and European glory in the new season.

RAIMOND VAN DER GOUW

The reserve keeper to Peter Schmeichel last season is set to continue his journey as a reserve this time to Aussie, Mark Bosnich.

Van Der Gouw has played only a handful of games for United since his arrival at the club and news of Schmeichel's move away from United should have given the reserve his chance to step as the club's number one.

DEFENDERS

WES BROWN

As Van Der Gouw, Brown has found it hard to find a spot in the side. Brown made a handful of appearances for the Red Devils last-season and with United's steady and reliable back four still in tact, Brown will find it tough to break into the team.

He must compete with Dennis Irwin, Roy Keane and Gary Neville which are all certain picks in any team in the world.

DENIS IRWIN

The Irishman has had his most successful season to date at Manchester and the old workhorse of the team still has a number of seasons left.

Irwin along with Keane are two of the originals of the team and they have helped build United from scratch along with manager, Sir Alex Ferguson.

Irwin is the brains in United's defence and opposition strikers are wary of him. Irwin also has the skill of pushing forward although it is very rarely seen although it is not needed when the strikers are putting in goals from all over the park.

PHILIP NEVILLE

A superb right back who is equally as adaptable as a central defender. A regular two seasons ago, Phil has played the majority of the season without really cementing his spot in the side.

Phil however will be given the chance to shine on the Man. United tour of Australia through the withdrawal of his brother from the squad, this a chance for Phil to show that anything his brother can do, he can do just as well, if not better.

DAVID MAY

Another player who has been at United for a number of years now, David May has been given his chance to impress on the tour of Australia after a reasonable season.

With United's great depth in their squad, it is hard to imagine that a player of May's skill would spend the majority of the time on the bench but this was the news last year for May.

May will be pressing hard for inclusion in the squad where he attempts to win back the spot that former teammate Henning Berg now calls his own.

JOHN CURTIS

Manchester United's Young Player of the Year in 1997, this solid full back with good tackling and recovery skills, has already made a highly promising start to his professional career when selected for the England U21 squad, even before he had made his full debut for his club.

Curtis is another player who last season struggled to see quality time on the field. It will be even more difficult for Curtis to make it into the side but the youngster has many years ahead of him and this experience can only be beneficial towards his future.

The former England youth team captain has the world at his feet.

HENNING BERG

A solid central defender, whose timing and judgement is always impeccable, Henning finally rekindled his love affair with Manchester United when he moved to Old Trafford from Blackburn in the summer of 1997 for £5m — a record for a defender at the time.

Berg has cemented a place in the defence and has impressed all since his arrival at Old Trafford. Suffered a number of injuries throughout the season and was at stages made to look slow.

Played in all four World Cup games for Norway in France as the Norwegian side reached the second round before going out of the competition when beaten 1-0 by Italy.

MIDFIELD

NICKY BUTT

A gritty midfielder with neat skills and a hardened edge, Nicky had the added responsibility of being a senior Manchester United player.

Never a prolific scorer from midfield, Butt did manage to score a number of crucial goals in the season and played a major role in the treble winning side of 1998/99.

Will be pushing for an England jersey this year as well as continuing his great form for United.

ROY KEANE

The hard man of United's midfield had a terrible end to last season. Injured after only three minutes in the FA Cup final and his suspension from the Champions League Final in Barcelona meant that he played no part in the United's two glory days during May.

Keane however was the core to which the team based its play around and Keane plays with the typical United spirit, that is to play the game hard.

Keane's tight defence and excellent organisational skills are enhanced with his reputation of pushing forward and adding an extra man in attack.

His goal was the turning point in United's semi-final second leg clash against Juventus, a goal which led to a growth in the teams confidence.



ROY KEANE

Sharp Challenge Cup

JORDI CRUYFF

A versatile front-line player, with excellent skills and a terrific shot in either foot, Jordi had a frustrating season last year. Since arriving from Barcelona, Jordi has struggled to even find a spot in the team let alone cement one.

Jordi relishes time on the ball and space to move in, this a complete opposite to the conditions found in the English Premier League.

However, he is determined to show Alex Ferguson that he has got the right credentials to make a success of his career at Old Trafford, something which he said was of greater importance than playing for Holland in the World Cup Finals.

RYAN GIGGS

A highly skilled Welsh left winger, who packs a tremendous left-footed shot, Ryan Giggs produced some sparkling moments during the course of last season.

Once again Giggs was the main avenue of attack along with Beckham for United throughout the season.

His goal in the FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal will go down as one of the best ever goals in football history.

Giggs was once again solid and when called upon by Ferguson, the Welshman did not let him down with his mesmerising dribbling skills and his ability to set up goals a key factor in United's successful run.

One of the first names on the team sheet, he continues to be a regular in the Welsh international side.

JESPER BLOMQUIST

Alex Ferguson announced that Jesper would be United's key to Europe upon his arrival at the club and he was not wrong.

Experience on the big stage was beneficial for Blomqvist and it wore off on the team allowing United to stay relaxed and not panic in situations which in the past would cause the team to crumble.

The ex-AC Milan star was not a regular starter but he did get a lot of time on the field especially during the European campaign.

Watch out for Blomqvist to play a more vital role in the team this season as he adapts even more to the English style of football.

MARK WILSON

Relatively little is known of Wilson as the strength of Ferguson's squad has relegated him to being no more than a spectator.

Any chance of Wilson playing in United's top side on a regular basis this season is very little considering the amount of talent that the club has in the midfield including Keane, Giggs and Beckham.

STRIKERS

ANDY COLE

A quick and deadly striker with lightning speed and good skills to match, his future at Manchester United was still the main topic of discussion as last season began as the club signed, Dwight Yorke.

What looked like a fight between the two for one spot finished off as the most deadliest strike partnership in Europe and the world.

Both finished up the top of the top goalscorers list in the league and the arrival of Yorke gave Cole the confidence and class that had betrayed him since moving to the Red Devils from Newcastle.

Cole showed that his previous form at Newcastle had not deserted him as he and Yorke mesmerised all before them.

Cole found his deadly finishing and his slippery runs resulted in many goals for either himself or Yorke.

Cole's new found form was a blessing for Ferguson who had given Cole ample time to find form.

This season heralds a new tag for Cole, one of the best strikers in the world and for United to continue on their merry way, he must step up as he did last season.

TEDDY SHERINGHAM

Teddy played second fiddle to both Cole and Yorke throughout the season but the former Spurs star was to be the club's hero in their final two games of last season.

After coming on as a substitute in the FA Cup final, he scored after being on the pitch under a minute as well as setting up the sealer for teammate, Paul Scholes.

Once again Sheringham was on the bench for the Champions League Final but his arrival in the game sparked life and creativity into the team and it was his goal in the 90th minute which helped United over-run Bayern in that frantic final two minutes in Barcelona.

Ferguson will once again find it tough to fit three strikers into two but with the form that Sheringham finished last year with, how can you relegate him to just being a super-sub.

DWIGHT YORKE

What can you say about this man. His arrival at United was the spark that turned United from a good team into the best team and just an average strike force in to the deadliest in the world along with Cole.

Yorke made himself at home at United as he continued to pound in the

goals after losing that deadly instinct during his last few months at former club, Aston Villa.

Yorke was unstoppable for United as he quickly fitted into the style of play United use, a style which suited Yorke.

Yorke's partnership with Cole was the most feared by defenders throughout the Premier League and it is set to continue this season as United defend the Premier League and Champions League titles.

Look-out for Yorke to once again be the top striker for United as both Cole and Sheringham fight for the all important position as the second striker.

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER

A well-balanced striker with a powerful shot in either foot, Solskjaer had a quiet season compared to his previous season where he dazzled the Old Trafford faithful when United failed to win a thing.

Once again he found the same problem that Sheringham has come up against, that of too many strikers in the team and the Norwegian found himself also on the bench.

Solskjaer was still influential in United's treble winning year coming off the bench to provide some spark and life when the team was down.

And with Sheringham, Solskjaer was the other hero of the side that night in Barcelona as his goal won United the all important Champions League final.

The Norwegian will be pressing hard for a starters spot this season but this is the amount of depth United enjoys.

PAUL SCHOLES

Scholes once again stepped up for United and when called upon, the man showed that he is capable of mixing it with the best of them.

His crucial goal in Milan wrapped up United's surprise win over Inter and his sealer in the FA Cup final was the icing on the cake.

A spot in the side for Scholes was a certainty and his great form for United saw him represent England, where he scored a hat-trick against Poland in a EURO 2000 qualifier.

Scholes is certain to once again figure as a main player in the teams quest for football glory.

JONATHAN GREENING

Little is known about this striker as little has been seen of him in the first team at Old Trafford.

A striker who is fifth in line for a spot in the first team is not the best news but his day will come, may it be at United or at another club.



OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER



TEDDY SHERINGHAM

MANCHESTER UNITED v SOCCEROOS

GOALKEEPERS

JASON PETKOVIC



JASON PETKOVIC

It is safe to say that Jason will be the first choice goalkeeper in this squad, a squad which includes three keepers for each of the two games.

Once again Jason has had a solid year with Adelaide City as the team struggled to qualify for the finals.

Although neither of the four keepers in the Socceroo squad to take on Manchester United are one of the top two goalkeepers that Australia has to offer, it does give all of them and in particular Jason a chance to show that they are as good as Aussie number one, Mark Bosnich.

Jason is the best of the current goalkeepers playing in Australia although he will have to prove himself worthy of this tag against United as the other keepers will be anxious to show that they're the best Australian based keeper.

MICHEAL PETKOVIC

After living in his brother shadow for a number of years, Micheal has come to the party over the last two seasons cementing a spot as the number one keeper at the Ericsson Cup champions for the past two years running, South Melbourne.

Micheal was last year awarded the Goalkeeper of the Year award at the annual Ericsson Cup Soccer Awards, where he took the title that his brother had held for the past two years before last.

Micheal has now broken out of his older brothers shadow and now hopes that he is given the chance to shine against United, although once again his number one opponent will be brother Jason.

JOE DIDULICA

A surprise selection for the game, Didulica is not one of the biggest names in Australian soccer although he has been one of the Melbourne Knights best players in a team that has struggled to reach the glory days of only four seasons ago.

Didulica has taken over from Frank Juric as the number goalkeeper at the

club following the move of Juric to play abroad. Didulica will only be required for the game to be played in Melbourne.

DANNY MILOSEVIC

Milosevic has excelled at the Glory this season taking over from Tony Franken as the clubs number one.

The success of the Glory and it amazing run in the league has given Milosevic the confidence and inspiration to rise to the top and secure himself as the best in the West.

Milosevic, who was the number one keeper for the Olyroos on their recent tour of New Zealand and Singapore, will only be needed for the Sydney game and it is highly unlikely that he will get a run, but the young keepers day in the spotlight is only around the corner.

DEFENDERS

CON BLATIS

Blatis was a member of the South Melbourne side which won their second straight league title last season.

The hard man of the South defence, Blatis has been a regular for the Olyroos and this young rising star of Australian soccer has now been given the chance to make his mark in the number one National team.

Blatis is one of eight defenders in the squad but it is expected that he will start against United.

SIMON COLOSIMO



SIMON COLOSIMO

Colosimo is one of the few survivors from the FIFA World Stars team and although he didn't get on the park that night, it was a great night for the young Carlton star.

Constant rumours about the young Carlton star are that Colosimo is close to signing with a European club and these two games may be the last time that we see of him in Australia for a while.

Colosimo is the centre of the Olyroo defence and although still young, he plays

with the skill and mentality of a veteran.

These two games are a chance for Colosimo to show that at just 20, he is

capable and ready to move overseas and further enhance his reputation as a future star of Australian soccer.

JACOB BURNS

Burns has risen from nowhere to become one of the best young players in Australia and this can be put down to the leadership shown by Former Socceroo, David Mitchell at Sydney United.

A fantastic season with United has brought Burns a regular spot in the Olyroos side as well as a debut cap for the Socceroos.

Burns has cemented a spot in the Olyroos and has now joined Mitchell in moving to the NSL's new club, Parramatta Power for this coming season.

HAYDEN FOXE

This is one player that many Australian fans have seen little of although he did make an appearance against the World Stars last month.

Foxe is expected to play for the Olyroos in next years Olympics and he is one player who has an abundance of overseas experience.

Foxe is still young but he has already played in Europe at Ajax Amsterdam in Holland and Arminia Bielefeld in Germany as well as playing under former Socceroo coach, Eddie Thompson at Sanfrecce Hiroshima in Japan.

Foxe will be a key player against United and hopefully he and Colosimo, can keep it tight at the back. Sure to be the biggest game of Foxe's short but very impressive career to date.

DRAGI NASTEVSKI

This Melbourne Knights defender has come from nowhere to pick up a spot in the Socceroo line-up to face United.

One of the youngest players in the squad, Nastevski has helped in the re-growth of the once dominant Melbourne Knights as they try to return to the glory days when Mark Viduka and Danny Tiatto ran rampant over opposition sides.

Nastevski will certainly rise to the occasion, one which will be an experience that the young player will never forget.



HAYDEN FOXE

Sharp Challenge Cup

Socceroos



By Daniel Giorlando

STEPHEN LAYBUTT

A member of the Brisbane Strikers side who last season failed to rise to the high expectations bestowed upon them from pundits before the start of the season, Laybutt has had a great season and now has been rewarded with a Socceroo jersey.

A key member of the Strikers defence, Laybutt has worn the green and gold before, representing the Olyroos on their recent tour.

A chance to show Olympic coach Raul Blanco that Laybutt is ready for the challenge at next years Olympics.

STAN LAZARIDIS



STAN LAZARIDIS

Selected in the defence for these two games, Lazaridis is the biggest name in this depleted Aussie squad.

A memorable few seasons with West Ham has helped Lazaridis to become one of Australia's and the Premier Leagues best players.

A fantastic game against the World Stars once again showed that in Lazaridis, Australia has a fantastic attacking avenue.

The only Australian Premier League player to have been given permission to play against United.

ALEX TOBIN

Our captain courageous will once again put on the green and gold and as always he will give 110% for his country.

Tobin captained the side last month against the World Stars although this will be more a bigger challenge for the veteran Adelaide City star as he must take control of a squad who is very young and inexperienced compared to their opponents.

Tobin has not let the country down and has played in all our most important games in the last five years.

MIDFIELD

ROSS ALOISI

Upstaged by his brother John, Ross has not been one of the bigger named players in Australian soccer even though he has played for many years in Europe.

Currently at French side Lorient, Ross has surprisingly been given the chance to play against United after supposedly being one of the forgotten sons of Australian soccer.

Aloisi has been given the chance to show his home crowd what he is capable of, something that only Adelaide fans would have witnessed during his time at Adelaide City.

BRETT EMERTON

A Sydney Olympic and Olyroo regular, Brett has taken his chance and is now a regular in the full strength Socceroo squad.

Emerton played last month in the Socceroos team and will be one of the go-to men for Australia against United.

Creativity from both himself and Lazaridis are Australia's best chances of troubling the scorers against United although Emerton's coolness and experience will be a benefit in both this tour and in any future Australian campaigns, especially in the 2000 Olympics.

VINCE GRELLA

Grella has risen from being just another player to becoming one of the most successful and most talented players at Italian club, Empoli.

The former Carlton player made his Italian debut against Juventus so these games against United will just be another game to the young player, and he along with Emerton will need play at their best in midfield up against the likes of Giggs and Keane.

Grella is expected to be a major part of the Olyroos side in the Olympics next year and these two games may be the last we see of him until then.

The Empoli star was part of the last Socceroo squad last month.

DANNY TIATTO

A forgotten man of Australian football, Tiatto has made himself at home at United's city rivals, Manchester City.

Whilst City are struggling to get back to the glory days when they were one of the best clubs in England, Tiatto has cemented himself a position at the club and this valuable experience has led to his unexpected call up for the two match tour.

Tiatto has represented the national team before but this is by far the biggest match of his brief International career.

A former Melbourne Knights star, Tiatto must also be at his best in the midfield and he will be one to look out for as one of our playmakers as well as Emerton and Lazaridis.

ZELJKO SUSA

The third Melbourne Knights player in the squad, Susa started for the Olyroos in their last game against New Zealand.

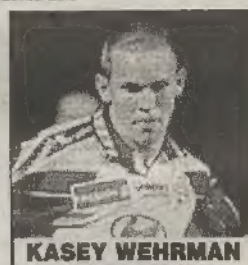
A relative unknown to many, Susa has played well in midfield for the Olyroos although his selection in the Socceroo squad is a big surprise.

Susa is not expected to get much time on the field against United but if he does, the experience will be invaluable.

KASEY WEHRMAN

The Brisbane Strikers midfielder is yet another Olyroo regular who has been selected for the United tour and it gives the exciting midfielder a chance to gain some experience against top class opposition.

Wehrman has scored some brilliant goals for the Strikers and his flair from the middle will go hand in hand with the flair of both Tiatto and Emerton.



KASEY WEHRMAN

STRIKERS

MICHEAL CURCIJA

South Melbourne's champion winning striker has been on fire recently scoring in his last game for the Olyroos against New Zealand.

Curcija will fight it out with Zane for the starters strikers role as Aurelio Vidmar is expected to be the number one striker during the two matches.

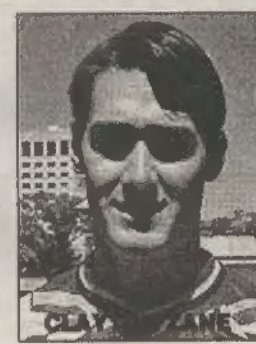
Curcija is a regular selection in the Olyroos team and he will play a major part in our countries chances of Gold in the Olympics.

AURELIO VIDMAR

Vidmar will play up front in this clash and he will be the main focus point of Australia's attack. Vidmar has played in a number of countries since moving from Australia including Holland, Spain, Belgium and finally in Japan.

Vidmar was the Belgian leagues top scorer with Standard Liege but since that, he has lost that golden touch.

CLAYTON ZANE



Zane has been on fire recently for the Olyroos and if his recent form is anything to go by, he will be our go to man up front.

Zane had an impressive season for Northern Spirit after coming to prominence at the Newcastle Breakers. Three goals in his last two games means that Zane is the man that United should mark tightly which will leave space for either Vidmar or the midfielders to roam free and cause havoc in the United defence.

The Australian Socceroos will face their toughest competition in over a year as they face Manchester United in two games to be held in Sydney and Melbourne this week.

The number of overseas-based Aussie players who have been denied the right to play by their multi-million dollar clubs has heavily weakened the squad.

Big named players such as Harry Kewell, Paul Okon and Mark Viduka to name a few have all been denied the right by their club to travel home and play for their country, this only adding fuel to the fire which burns strongly over the country versus club issue.

Australia fielded its strongest team against the FIFA World Stars and the Socceroo side that will take to the field against United will be less than our best, in-fact on paper it looks like one of our weakest in history.

Only three overseas based players that took on the FIFA World Stars, Stan Lazaridis, Vince Grella and Aurelio Vidmar, have been given permission by their clubs to play this week and Lazaridis is the only Premier League player to take on the Red Devils.

The majority of the team however to take on United is made up from the Olyroos squad which has just completed a tour of Singapore and New Zealand.

A number of players will make their Socceroo debut against United and what a stage to be facing first up.

Alex Tobin will once again captain the Australian side, this side a great deal weaker and less experienced than the team he led out almost a month ago.



PAUL OKON

Soccer Australia and Raul Blanco in particular has taken the right step in blooding some of our less experienced players, players who will next year represent our country at arguably the biggest tournament in their soccer history to date, the Sydney Olympics.

Names such as Joe Didulica, Dragi Nastevski, Steve Laybutt and Zeljko Susa are not the first picks of the National selectors when they have a full team to choose from, but the initiative that Blanco has taken in the selection of his squad is a huge step forward.

Blanco could've taken the easy option and opted to select a Socceroo team consisting of Australian based players.

Many are still on their end of season break and it just wouldn't be fair to both the fans and the players if United were to pit there full squad against a national squad which consisted of players who were still on holidays mentally and not looking in the best shape physically.

The Socceroos (or should it be Olyroos) will have their work cut out for them as they take on the best club team in the world at the moment.

So what of our chances in the two match series? Well the Socceroos squad is not the strongest ever but it does give a chance for all players to stand up and make themselves heard by coach Blanco.

The two game series also gives the youngsters a chance to cement a spot in the Olyroos team for next years Olympics.

The Socceroos have come off a last start win,

although the game was no more than a friendly but as they say, a win is a win.

The full strength team was on show that night and the way that the team played showed that the Australian public could look forward to a successful World Cup qualifying campaign in 2002.

The Olyroos on the other hand have come off a superb tour of matches last month as they went undefeated in beating the New Zealand Olympic team twice, as well as Singapore's national Olympic side.

Both Clayton Zane and Michael Curcija impressed and their involvement in the Manchester United game will give them some hardened experience on the big stage.

Manchester United have stated that they will be playing at close to their very best during their tour of Australia and Asia but the question on everybody's lips is, how will we play?

Will Blanco play a negative and uninspiring game by packing the defence and try to keep the free flowing, free scoring United at bay, trying to catch them on the counter or will he be more adventurous and try to startle the Red Devils from the start?

Against the FIFA World Stars, even though the clash was a friendly, the style of play that Australia adopted was pleasing to see.

A steady and strong defence mixed with attacking flair from all over the park was entertaining and thus goes well for the future. But United is a totally different proposition.

They have faced some of the best defenses in the world over the last year and they have made them look like amateurs, so what hope do we have of holding the almighty United at bay and for how long?

Once again we need somebody to step forward and prove himself as being a future regular in the Socceroo side.

This is the sort of stage for the likes of Danny Tiatto, Clayton Zane and Simon Colosimo to step forward and show us what they are worth to Australian soccer.

On paper with the likes of Cole, Keane, Bosnich and Yorke, you would give Australia a three goal head start but don't give up on the Socceroos yet.

Although the Socceroos lack the big named players, that will be made up by the amount of nervous energy and determination that all 20 players will give over the two games this Thursday and Sunday.

And don't forget the likes of Aurelio Vidmar, Vince Grella, Ross Aloisi, Hayden Foxe and Stan 'the man' Lazaridis who will guide our side against the might of United.

They have played and still do play in some of the best overseas leagues and they will also have to show leadership and commitment to help the less senior players of the squad.

What more can be said that although the team isn't the strongest on paper, football is played on a pitch and as we all know, anything can happen.

So let's sit down, relax and let the games begin.

GO THE SOCCEROOS!!



VINCE GRELLA

Australian Features

JOEYS ON THE WAY

Coach Les Scheinflug has assembled a group of 23 players for an Under-17 training camp at Valentine Park, home of the NSW Soccer Federation, as preparations begin for the final World Cup Qualifier against Bahrain next month.

The Australian Under-17s won their qualifying group in Fiji in May, and were to have played Bahrain directly after, however the two legged final qualifier has now been re-scheduled for August, first leg in Canberra



Wayne Srhoj

(August, 14) and second leg in Bahrain (August 27).

Scheinflug and assistant coach Kelly Coers will assess the squad over the next ten days at both Parklea and the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra (from 11th July), before selecting an 18-man squad to travel to a training camp overseas.

The boys will spend three weeks in Germany with five training matches planned, before arriving back in early August for final match preparations.

JOEYS SQUAD FOR WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Player	Position	Player	Position
Matthew Milosevic	Goalkeeper	Jade North	Midfielder
Jess Kedwell-Vanstrattan	Goalkeeper	Wayne Srhoj	Midfielder
Daniel Schwarzer	Goalkeeper	James Johnson	Midfielder
Radoslav Culibrk	Defender	Anthony Doumanis	Midfielder
Shane Cansdell-Sherriff	Defender	Fabian Iettieri	Midfielder
Aaron Goulding	Defender	Mislav Saric	Midfielder
Steve Laurie	Defender	Louis Brain	Striker
Mark Byrnes	Defender	Joseph Di Iorio	Striker
Peter Gavaghan	Defender	Scott McDonald	Striker
Victor Fernandez	Defender	Dylan MacAlister	Striker
Shane Lockhart	Defender	Tallan Martin	Striker
Iain Fyfe	Defender		

CLUBS TO TAKE PART IN MEMORIAL CUP

Since Soccer Australia decided to go with a 17 club competition for next season, clubs have now had the chance to settle down and look towards pre-season training.

Ten Ericsson Cup and NSW State League teams have decided to compete in the David Carty and Peter Forsyth Cup, a competition that is being held in the memory of the two policemen who lost their lives whilst in the line of duty.

The competition begins next month with the Grand Final to be held at Parramatta Stadium on Sunday the 19th of September. All funds from the tournament will go towards Policy Legacy.

Both officers lost their lives in terrible circumstances, Constable Carty losing his life at his place of work at Fairfield

and Constable Forsyth who was killed near his home in the Sydney suburb of Ultimo, and this competition is being held in their memory.

The launch of the 1999 David Carty and Peter Forsyth

Memorial Cup was launched in Parramatta last Wednesday by Acting Deputy Commissioner, Terry Collins.

Mr Collins said that this year's event had been expanded from last year to feature all NSW based National Soccer League teams including Canberra Cosmos and the top three NSW State League teams.

Last years inaugural tournament raised more than \$11,000 for Police Legacy, which helps the families of officers killed in the line of duty.

This years tournament is set to be one of the strongest in history as NSL teams attempt to meet strict criteria set down by Soccer Australia for qualification into the 2000/01 league season.

The preliminary matches for the memorial cup tournament are to be played across NSW including Bosley Park, Breakers Stadium and Edensor Park.

The participating teams include Marconi-Fairfield, Canberra Cosmos, Blacktown City, Bonnyrigg Eagles, Parramatta Melita, Sydney Olympic, Newcastle Breakers, Northern Spirit, Sydney United, and Wollongong Wolves.



Parramatta Increases capacity to ensure Powers future

By John Economos

Parramatta Stadium, home ground to the Ericsson National League's newly admitted side the Parramatta Power, is about to receive a multi million dollar facelift from the NSW Government.

The facelift will embrace the almost immediate increase of 5,000 seats with a long term targetted seating capacity expected to nudge 35,000.

Parramatta Power's first coach David Mitchell, stated to ABSW, "This is wonderful news. All we need now is for healthy crowds to turn up for soccer as well as rugby league"

The current seating capacity of the stadium is 20,000 and it's understood that the Parramatta Stadium Trust has for quite some time been looking to increase the fully seated capacity.

Ms Gabrielle Harrison, sitting Member for Parramatta, had stated, "This approval by my

Government will give a tremendous boost for our Parramatta based team in the National Soccer League.

"Soccer Australia requires teams to provide a venue which offers full seating for patrons.

"So this proposal to construct seats on the hills (behind each goal area) at both ends of the ground, should satisfy that condition.

"Other benefits include improvements in safety standards, lower maintenance costs and improved crowd control and spectator comfort.

"The proposal also allows for the provision of new turnstiles and ticket box entry points which should allow for easier and quicker access into the ground," ended Ms Harrison.

The NSW Minister stressed that once funding had been approved and the remodelling work at the Parramatta Stadium finalised, the people of Parramatta as well as the Parramatta Power Soccer team, will have a world class sporting venue, capable of attracting a whole host of new sporting and entertainment events, with soccer very much included.



David Mitchell... delighted at the news on Parramatta Stadiums capacity increase.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Last week we published this picture of the 1995 NSW U/15 squad. During the week we have been told by two of our readers that in fact Harry Kewell and Michael Cunico are not the only stars to come out of this group.

We at ABSW wish to thank both Rob Laws and Sharon Ryng for showing us that this dream team also included,

Top third left- Sebastian Sinozic, Young Socceroos, Wollongong Wolves

Top five Left- Nick Purdue, Canberra Cosmos

Top six left- Michael Cunico, Northern Spirit.

Top nine left- Adam Brodbeck ex Wollongong Wolves

Bottom second left- Michael Galluzzo, Marconi

Bottom four left- Brett Emerton, Socceroos, UTS Olympic

Bottom left- Harry Kewell, Socceroos, Leeds

Australian Features

MARCONI JUNIORS MAKE 'BRISBANE CHALLENGE'

By John Economos

Marconi's Under 11s and Under 12s squads flew out of Sydney last Saturday for the Gold Coast to prepare for their three 'challenge matches' each against three of the Brisbane Junior clubs.

The Marconi 11s and 12s have already set up their training camp at Coolangatta's plush 'Beach House Seaside Resort' on Marine Parade and travelled to

Brisbane yesterday — (Monday) — for their first matches against Mitchelton.

Tomorrow night (Wednesday) the Marconi Juniors play the Under 11s and 12s from Pine Hills and on Friday they play their final games against Brisbane City's Under 11s and 12s.

All six matches are being played at Brisbane City's home ground, Spencer Park in the Brisbane suburb of Newmarket.

Kick off times are 6pm for the Under 11s with the 12s starting their games at 7.10pm.

Long serving Marconi Juniors' coach Mr Ricky Chiellini, in charge of the Under 11s, stated to ABSW, "This will be a wonderful experience for our kids."

Mr Chiellini, today better recognised for having been the first coach of the world's most expensive player, Christian Vieri back in the mid 80s when Vieri played with the Marconi Juniors, went on to add, "Already our kids are treating our Queensland crusade as a 'mini State Of Origin'."

When ABSW questioned Mr Chiellini whether he

has another 'Vieri' in the making within his Under 11s squad, with tongue in cheek the most affable Juniors' coach answered, "Maybe more than just one."

"But at this stage, and considering their ages, I don't want them exposed to premature publicity."

The Under 12s are coached by Mr Jack Belardo with Team managers being Neville Orlando (11s) and Angelo Romeo (12s).

Both Marconi Junior squads are due back in Sydney late Saturday afternoon.



Marconi's Under 11s and 12s travelling squads to Brisbane.

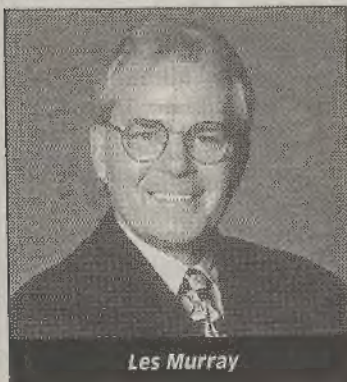
SBS WORLD CUP SPECIAL FRANCE '98

By John Economos

SBS-TV, Australia's Super Soccer Channel has done it again, and again all for the millions of soccer fans in Australia.

This Sunday (July 18th) at 12.30pm, the Super Soccer Channel will screen a magnificent and comprehensive two hour special of last year's World Cup Finals 'France '98'.

SBS-TV will relive the drama and triumphs in France and will present Australian viewers with this Soccer classic 'Le Triomphe'.



Les Murray

All the highlights from France 98 will be screened with every goal from every game plus all the controversial incidents.

SBS' Head Of Sport, Les Murray will provide the narration and opinion throughout this professionally produced

'Le Triomphe'

comprehensive soccer special.

Highlights will include the political implications and the tension present at the Iran vs USA match, a tribute to Paraguay's unorthodox legendary goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert, a flash back to the most unfortunate Ronaldo scandal and exclusive footage of that 'shirt pulling' incident which resulted in the penalty that gave Norway its 2-1 victory over Brazil which edged out Morocco out of the finals.

SBS Sports Department flew to France, last year to set up base, beaming back the games live to Australia achieving:

- *64 games.
- *32 nations.
- *33 days.
- *nine French cities.
- *17 cameras shooting each match.
- *averaging approximately six hours of daily Soccer footage.
- *viewed by an estimated national television audience of 5.3 million.

The SBS Sport World Cup special this Sunday condenses more than 200 hours of world class soccer into 120 minutes and is certainly a must see.

Les Murray stated to ABSW, "Everything good tends to look even better with hindsight, but this special makes one realise just how good France '98 was."

"A triumph for soccer, and a triumph for SBS."

Who will ever forget the magnificent live coverage of the final as France swept past Brazil, not to mention its huge, emotional and scenes erupting across the streets of Paris following the victory.

Only SBS had the knowledge and soccer expertise to achieve this. A world class sporting production and a must see for all sport fans.



Ronaldo. Brazil's shattering tragedy.

News Briefs

Marconi's coach, Frank Farina has been mentioned as the hot tip to take over Australia's National coaching position later this year.

Should he take up the challenge, ABSW believes that former Carlton coach, Eddie Krncevic will take over at the Stallions.

Bruce Stowell, former Brisbane Strikers coach departs for Malaysia to take a coaching position at Johr F.C. this week.

Stowell, currently employed by the Queensland Federation as the regional development officer in Townsville, will be in charge of Johr after former coach and previous head coach of the AIS, Ronnie Smith was elevated by the Malaysian F.A. to the position of Technical Director, based in Kuala Lumpur.

South Melbourne Soccer Clubs general manager, Peter Filopoulos has announced his resignation after a five year stint at the club.

Filopoulos will now move to AFL side, Hawthorn with a senior marketing position under his belt.

Filopoulos' has left the club on a high as the club has improved in all facets during his stay at club including an increase of more than 2,000 fans to South Melbourne home games last season as well as a 300% rise in merchandise sales.

As well as this, South have the chance of playing in the World Club Championship in Brazil next year should they qualify.

By John Economos

Have Your Say ...

Dear Sir,

If I was Soccer Australia boss or even coach Raul Blanco, I wouldn't worry about invoking rule 41, from FIFA about players not being allowed to play for their club, if banned from playing for their country.

Let's face it, if any top line player doesn't come to play for his country against Manchester United in Sydney and Melbourne, with the excuse that their club bosses won't let them, isn't fair dinkum about playing for his country.

Even though these two games are not international games, they are still important to the football starved public, who are paying big dollars to see the best players available.

The players can't have it both ways, particularly when its only the pre-season

preparation over there in July, and blackmail from their club's at this time of the year is only a bluff.

A big bluff at that. While we have plenty of young Olyroo replacements who need the experience for next years Olympics, it is Soccer Australia's first duty s best team possible for not only the fans, but the promoters as well.

However, it shouldn't be done with the big stick either, just a gentle reminder that there are now plenty of young skillful soccer players in Australia and overseas, ready, willing and able to fit into the top Socceroo squad within two years, if not sooner, when the real important international games come around.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, Qld.

Australian Features



Our Guest of the Week is the Marconi Stallions midfield dynamo who single handedly kept alive his club's finals chances this season with his inspirational performances.

He was recently recognised as the best player in the Ericsson Cup taking out the Warren medal

Please give a big Four Diegos welcome to the captain courageous of the Marconi Stallions... Brad Maloney.



Diegos: "Thanks for joining us during your off season. At this time of the year the Diegos would imagine that you would be out with the boys nightly, doing the 'Ricky Ponting - Bourbon and Beefsteak' shuffle at the home of all feisty end of season male bonding sessions, King Cross in Sydney?"

Maloney: "No way Diegos. I try and stay out of that place. The newspapers here in Sydney register any incident at that establishment on the infamous 'Bourbon metre'. So I don't really want to be a part of that."



Brad 'Bugsy' Maloney.

Diegos: "Congratulations on a fantastic season and on winning the Warren Medal. When you went up to accept the award did you at any stage feel like breaking into an emotional Gwyneth Paltrow 'running-mascara' type acceptance speech?"

Maloney: "It was a great award to win but the last thing I felt like doing was to break down in tears. It certainly was a great feeling to receive the award."

"There was a lot of people I really wanted to thank, too many to get through in such a short time. To tell you the truth, I just wanted to get up and out of there as quick as I could."

Diegos: "Just as Tommy Lee and Pamela Anderson indulged in a session of tongue wrestling on stage at the World Music awards, did you at any stage feel like pashing TV celebrity, Tracey Holmes, the MC for the night?"

Maloney: "Let me assure the Diegos that I would've put it on her but she went away too quick for me. I think she knew I was coming."

Diegos: "After having such a good season you must have felt pretty confident that you had a good chance of winning the award."

"Of the other nominees, whom did you think was the biggest threat and was there any player on the list you felt was a 'real dud' and shouldn't have been nominated?"

Maloney: "I don't think there are any real 'duds' among the nominees on the night. They were all worthy selections. Of nominees, I actually voted for Con Boutsinnis, I Trimboli and Pablo Cardo. I thought it was great receiving such an award when you're competing with so many players."

Diegos: "Are there players that you just stand playing against and think are true precious, prima donna Diegos want you to name?"

Maloney: "You're out of your mind. I can think of a few. I think there are a few players, with their on-

ward winning style, the s?"

Diegos: "There's none that I can think of or two that get up people's noses, not just mine."

field antics and with the way they behave sometimes. I think that is part of sport in general though."

Diegos: "The club went through a lengthy slump during the middle part of the season. It seemed Farina's job was on the line and to be honest, the Diegos had condemned the team to the glue factory."

"It's history now that the boys were able to turn it around. What led to the slump and how would you sum up the team's first season under Frank Farina?"

Maloney: "We suffered a lot of injuries and suspensions throughout the middle of the year and without making too many excuses, it had to play some role on the team not doing so well."

"In one or two games we had to virtually play with the youth squad. In one of those Sydney Olympic thrashed us 5-0. We were very inexperienced at times and perhaps, a little naïve."

"Heads went down quickly and we seemed to accept loss too easily during this period. There were rumours about Frankie's job being on the line but I think that they were a little premature, even though we were going through a bad trot."

"I think the club and the board at Marconi have stood by him. I don't think his job was ever in doubt during the year. It may have been a different story if by the end of the season, we were still lurking at the bottom."

"We always maintained faith in ourselves and I always believed that we were never really out of it. With the last 6 or 7 games to go we gave ourselves an aim of winning at least 5 of those games, which we managed to do."



Maloney... hopes that one day he can represent Australia on the world stage.

"That teed us off for a final's birth, finally finishing 4th on the ladder. It was a fairly good effort coming from 10th or 11th on the turn."

Diegos: "You are a goal scoring midfielder and from memory, you scored one of the goals of the season with an acrobatic, mid-air, cock the bolt back and let fire, scissor kick against Sydney United."

"Is this something that Frank encourages you to do and how does Francis Awartife take it when you decide to shoot rather than pass the ball to him?"

Maloney: "Frankie (Farina) encourages me to get forward as much as possible. It has become my role this season to support the strikers, get into the box and get on the end of things. If it's not me that finishes things off, we hope it'll be Franny (Francis Awartife), Kris Trajanovski or Sean Babic."

"I've had the luxury of having good players behind me doing excellent defensive work. Players like Darren McDonald, Marcus Phillips, Mark Babic and Chad Gibson are all great performers who do a lot of the graft work, which allows me to get forward."

"It's been a strategy that Frankie has encouraged and I think it has been successful for us."

Diegos: "On the Socceroos front, you haven't had much of a look in, even though you did come through the ranks as a well credentialed Youth International."

"When you saw the boys front up against the World XI at the opening of Stadium Australia, how does it make you feel?"

Maloney: "I would always love to play for the Socceroos. I believe if your form warrants selection then you'll get picked. Any player playing in the National league should aspire to play for his country."

"Having said that and looking at the line up against the World XI, I don't think anyone can argue that that wasn't the strongest Australian squad we've ever had."

"All those players are established players in Europe and all worthy selections for the team. I think it was fantastic getting those boys together, particularly Paul Okon and Ned Zelic."

"As far as the future is concerned, if they are going to select an Australian based squad, of course I'd like to be involved but whether or not it happens remains to be seen."

Diegos: "Australian raised, Italian international, Christian Vieri has just transferred from Lazio to Inter Milan for a lazy \$75 million and Mark Bosnich has recently scored himself a \$17.5 million, 4 year contract with none other than the great, Manchester United. In an irrational moment, do you ever kick the cat and scream into the mirror - it should have been me?"

Maloney: "No not really. I was overseas for a short period just after the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. I spent a bit of time in Holland and Belgium. I thought I per-

formed reasonably well and actually signed a contract with a first division club in Holland but unfortunately couldn't get a visa to stay."

"So I came back to Australia and just started playing here again. It didn't work out for me and I'm not going to cry about it. I'm reasonably happy with what I'm doing now. I'm happy with my situation and status at Marconi."

"I think it's fantastic that Aussie boys are making a name for themselves on the world stage and making a great living out of the game. Our boys are now up there with some of the best players in the world."

"I don't think anyone can argue that Mark Bosnich is not in at least the top 10, perhaps top 5, goalkeepers in the world. Good luck to him."

"Vieri is another one who has made a name for himself. He was one of the top scorers in the World cup and clubs are willing to pay big dollars for these type of players."

Diegos: "Thanks Bugsy. Let's hope you finally catch up with the lovely Tracy Holmes. Adios Amigo!"

Maloney: "Thanks Diegos. Let's hope I can make it back to back so that I can have another crack next year. Adios Amigos!"



The player of the year has no regrets about not playing in Europe and is very happy at the Stallions.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

BLACKTOWN IN AS BANKSTOWN BOMB OUT

Super League has hit semi-finals mode on the weekend, with Blacktown playing Macarthur at Jensen Park to see which team had the right to play Bonnyrigg this week for a place in the grand final.

It was the Demons who earned that right after a 3-1 win over the Rams, a welcome win after three straight defeats.

Going into the game without the suspended duo of Jon Angelucci and Peter Sermanni, the Demons took the lead on 38 minutes.

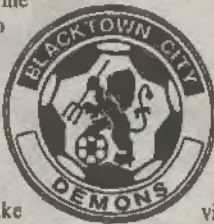
Ever present Damien Brown placed a superb ball into the path of namesake Smith, who smashed the ball from 25 metres into the top right hand corner of the net.

Eric Williams hit the post for the Rams after the break, but on 64 minutes Brown and Aaron Holst again set up Damien Smith, who headed home to make it 2-0. Holst then made it 3-0, although Macarthur's Williams managed a consolation goal with ten minutes remaining.

Macarthur is now in sudden-death mode, and they face a tough challenge against Parramatta Eagles on Saturday, while Blacktown could have a week off if they beat Bonnyrigg.

Blacktown City Demons: Greco, Yates (Salameh), Lowe, Langan, Riches, Bradley, Foxe, Cleary, Smith, Brown, Bennett (Holst).

Macarthur Rams: Crawley, Valle, Lloyd, Bourke, Williams, Willard, Rastall, Knight, Aschner (Whiddett), Brookes (Cevenini)



On Sunday, the elimination semi-final between the Parramatta Eagles and Bankstown City Lions was as tense as expected with so much at stake, although two early goals helped the Eagles cause.

It was the Parramatta side who prevailed, winning 3-0 in a game that saw Bankstown's goalkeeper Zlatko Josevski sent off for deliberate handball in the dying seconds.

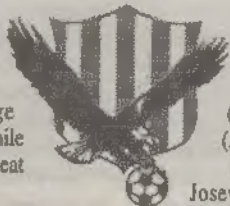
The Eagles got off to a great start when Grant Bard netted after just three minutes, and when the talented Anthony Panzarino made it 2-0 on 27 it was always going to be a long haul for the Lions.

Bankstown were without four players who were playing for the Australian Lebanese team, and the Eagles made sure of victory when striker Adam Anderson came on and scored within two minutes of entering the field.

Josevski's send off was never going to change the game but it did sum up Bankstown's day, but nevertheless the Lions did well to reach the top five.

Parramatta Eagles: Holmes, Utjesenovic (Kelso), O'Grady, Revely, Panzarino, M. Mielak, Bard, Mittiga, Islas (Boskovski), Conde, Wakim (Anderson).

Bankstown City Lions: Z Josevski, R Lukic, D Lukic, Hawrysiuk, Todorovski (Wilson), Adioski, Lozevski (Briskovski), Kipazirov, Van Bentum, Dimovski, Badrov (Nouh).



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

SEMI



FINALS

Saturday 17th July

FIRST GRADE

Macarthur Rams v Parramatta Eagles
Serbian Centre, 5.00pm

U/21

Macarthur Rams v Parramatta Eagles
Serbian Centre, 2.30pm

U/18

Macarthur Rams v Parramatta Eagles
Serbian Centre, 12.30pm

FIRST GRADE

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Blacktown City Demons
Melita Stadium, 5.00pm

U/21

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Blacktown City Demons
Melita Stadium, 2.30pm

U/18

Blacktown City Demons v Canterbury Marrickville
Melita Stadium, 12.30pm

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SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Preliminary Semi Final — Blacktown City 3 (D Smith 38/64m, A Holst 66m) bt Macarthur Rams 1 (E Williams 79m). Elimination Semi Final — Parramatta Eagles 3 (G Bard 3m, A Panzarino 27m, A Anderson 58m) bt Bankstown City 0.

UNDER 21: Elimination Semi Final — Blacktown City 0 drew Fairfield Bulls 0 (3-1 Penalties). Preliminary Semi Final — Macarthur Rams 2 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1.

UNDER 18: Elimination Semi Final — Canterbury M'Ville 3 drew Leichhardt Tigers 3 (4-2 Penalties). Preliminary Semi Final — Blacktown City 1 drew Macarthur Rams 1 (1-3 Penalties).

DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE: Moorebank Sports 1 bt Auburn United 0, Rockdale 3 (S Najdoski 34/37/86m) bt Bathurst '75 0, Penrith Panthers 2 (Own goal 29m, R Astone 73m) bt Moorebank Sports 1 (A Lock 72m), St George 2 (A Araujo 37m, L Kohl 39m) drew Illawarra Lions 2 (J Melissourgos 89m, J Kenoevski 91m), Stanmore Hawks 4 (P Kypros 40/82m, A Markopoulos 70m, S Bakafoukas 77m) bt Dulwich Hill 1 (M Sultan 87m), Auburn United 1 (A Kanaan 89m) bt Hurstville City 0, AC United 1 (F Screpes 37m) bt Manly Warringah 0.

UNDER 21: Rockdale City Suns 2 bt Bathurst '75 1, Penrith Panthers 4 bt Moorebank Sports 0, St George 9 bt Illawarra Lions 0, Dulwich Hill 1 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, Auburn United 3 bt Hurstville City 0, Manly Warringah 3 bt AC United 0.

UNDER 18: Bathurst '75 2 bt Rockdale City Suns 0, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Moorebank Sports 1, St George 3 bt Illawarra Lions 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 drew Dulwich Hill 1, Auburn United 3 bt Hurstville City 1, AC United 3 bt Manly Warringah 0.

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE —

ROUND 19

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Manly Warr Dolphins	19	13	2	4	60	18	42	41
Stanmore Hawks	18	11	3	4	34	24	10	36
St George Saints	18	10	4	4	33	20	13	34
Penrith Panthers	19	9	4	6	32	20	12	31
Rockdale City Suns	18	9	2	7	38	27	11	29
Illawarra Lions	18	8	2	8	33	30	3	26
Hurstville City Minotaurs	19	8	1	10	31	36	-5	25
Auburn United	19	8	0	11	29	40	-11	24
AC United	19	6	5	8	29	42	-13	23
Bathurst '75	17	5	5	7	20	27	-7	20
Moorebank Sports	19	3	5	11	13	43	-30	14
Dulwich Hill	19	2	5	12	21	46	-25	11

DIVISION TWO

FIRST GRADE: Sydney University 0 drew Hills United 0, Hurstville ZSC 2 bt Belmore Hercules 0, Fraser Park 3 bt Greystanes 1, Hajduk Wanderers 3 bt Mt Druitt Town 0, University of NSW 2 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Arncliffe Scots 3 bt Sydney District 0.

UNDER 21: Hills United 1 bt Sydney University 0, Hurstville ZSC 4 bt Belmore Hercules 0, Fraser Park 3 bt Greystanes 1, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt Mt Druitt Town 1, Mt Pritchard 10 bt University of NSW 0, Arncliffe Scots 1 drew Sydney District 1.

UNDER 18: Hills United 7 bt Sydney University 1, Belmore Hercules 5 bt Hurstville ZSC 0, Fraser Park 0 drew Greystanes 0, Mt Druitt Town 5 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, Mt Pritchard 3 bt University of NSW 0 (Win by Forfeit), Sydney District 3 bt Arncliffe Scots 2, Hills United 2 bt Hurstville ZSC 0.

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO —

ROUND 18

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Hajduk Wanderers	18	15	1	2	54	8	46	46
Fraser Park	18	14	1	3	54	15	39	43
Hurstville ZSC	18	11	2	5	43	20	23	35
Arncliffe Scots	17	8	6	3	35	20	15	30
Sydney University	17	9	3	5	35	26	9	30
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	18	9	2	7	34	32	2	29
Mt Pritchard	18	6	4	8	24	28	-4	22
Greystanes	17	5	4	8	26	30	-4	19
Belmore Hercules	17	4	2	11	17	43	-26	14
University of NSW	18	3	3	12	17	49	-32	12
Hills United	18	2	5	11	22	45	-23	11
Sydney District	18	1	5	12	9	54	-45	8

DIVISION THREE

FIRST GRADE: Liverpool City 2 bt Prospect United 0, Western Sydney Lions 1 bt Maroubra 0, The Wanderers 2 bt Hakoah 1, White City 2 bt Colo Colo 1, Trasandinos 6 bt Gladesville United 2, Camden Tigers 2 bt Parramatta City 1.

SECOND GRADE: Liverpool City 1 drew Prospect United 1, Maroubra United 2 bt Western Sydney Lions 0, Hakoah 3 bt The Wanderers 1, Colo Colo 5 bt White City 0, Trasandinos 5 bt Gladesville United 0, Camden Tigers 0 bt Parramatta City 0.

DIVISION FOUR

FIRST GRADE: Balmain 1 bt Nepean District 0, White Valley vs Marrickville P/P, CSI Schofields 3 bt Auburn Star 0, Granville Greenisland 2 bt Prairiewood United 1, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Holy Cross Ryde 1, Springwood 5 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 1, United Eagles 6 bt Sydney Crescent Star 0, Springwood 4 bt Sydney Crescent Star 1.

SECOND GRADE: Nepean District 3 bt Balmain 1, Marrickville 4 bt White Valley 0, Auburn Star 2 bt CSI Schofields 1, Prairiewood United 4 bt Granville Greenisland 2, Holy Cross Ryde 3 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Springwood 4 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 0, United Eagles 1 bt Sydney Crescent Star 13, Springwood 7 bt Sydney Crescent Star 1.

DIVISION FIVE

FIRST GRADE: Bossy 7 bt Macquarie Sports 1, Sporting SCC 2 bt AVA United 1, Kellyville Kolts 5 bt Earlwood Hermes 1, Kosciusko 4 bt Homenetmen 1, Sydney TUSC vs Sydney United Kings P/P, Liverpool Olympic 2 bt Lithgow Workmen 1.

SECOND GRADE: Bossy 5 bt Macquarie Sports 2, Sporting 3 bt AVA United 1, Kellyville Kolts 7 bt Earlwood Hermes 0, Kosciusko 3 bt Homenetmen 2, Sydney TUSC vs Sydney United Kings P/P, Lithgow Workmen 1 drew Liverpool Olympic 1.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Sutherland Sharks 3 bt Central Coast 0, Marconi Fairfield 3 bt Sydney United 0, NSW INST/Academy 7 bt Gladesville Ravens 1, UWS Macarthur Rams 2 bt Shoalhaven Assoc 0.

SECOND GRADE: Sutherland Sharks 3 bt Central Coast 0, Marconi Fairfield 2 bt Sydney United 0, Gladesville Ravens 0 drew NSW INST/Academy 0, UWS Macarthur Rams 1 bt Shoalhaven Assoc 0.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Manly Warringah 3 bt Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 0, Bathurst City 1 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Wollongong Wolves 3 bt St George Assoc 1, Roselands 1 drew Bankstown United 1.

SECOND GRADE: Manly Warringah 13 bt Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 0, Bathurst City 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, St George Assoc 2 bt Wollongong Wolves 1, Roselands 6 bt Bankstown United 0.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Leichhardt Tigers vs Southern Branch W/O, Gladesville Hornsby 2 bt Central Coast 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 drew Newcastle Breakers 1, Sydney United 1 drew Southern Districts 1, Wollongong Wolves 2 drew Macarthur Rams 2, Sydney Olympic 4 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Blacktown City 5 bt Marconi Fairfield 1, Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Manly Warringah 0.

UNDER 14: Leichhardt Tigers vs Southern Branch W/O, Gladesville Hornsby 5 bt Central Coast 0, Parramatta Eagles 3 bt Newcastle Breakers 1, Sydney United 2 drew Southern Districts 2, Macarthur Rams 1 bt Wollongong Wolves 1, Sydney Olympic 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Blacktown City 3 bt Marconi Fairfield 2, Sutherland Sharks 1 bt Manly Warringah 0.

UNDER 15: Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Southern Branch 0, Gladesville Hornsby 2 bt Central Coast 1, Newcastle Breakers 2 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Southern Districts 1 bt Sydney United 0, Macarthur Rams 2 bt Wollongong Wolves 0, Eastern Suburbs 2 bt Sydney Olympic 1, Marconi Fairfield 1 drew Blacktown City 1, Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Manly Warringah 1.

UNDER 16: Leichhardt Tigers 5 bt Southern Branch 0, Newcastle Breakers 1 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Southern Districts 2 bt Sydney United 1, Wollongong Wolves 5 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Sydney Olympic 1 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Blacktown City 4 bt Marconi Fairfield 0, Sutherland Sharks 4 bt Manly Warringah.

DIVISION ONE

YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: St George vs Canterbury M'Ville W/O, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 drew Bankstown Association 4, Illawarra Lions 2 bt Blacktown Association 1, Ryde City 1 drew AC United 1, Fairfield Bulls 3 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Hills United 0, Canterbury Association 3 bt Rockdale City Suns 2.

UNDER 14: St George vs Canterbury M'Ville W/O, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 bt Bankstown Association 2, Illawarra Lions 3 bt Blacktown Association 2, Ryde City 2 bt AC United 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Penrith Panthers 1 bt Hills United 0, Canterbury Association 1 bt Rockdale City Suns 0.

UNDER 15: St George vs Canterbury M'Ville W/O, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 bt Bankstown Association 0, Blacktown Association 3 bt Illawarra Lions 0, AC United 1 bt Ryde City 0, Fairfield Bulls 2 drew Stanmore Hawks 2, Hills United 0 drew Penrith Panthers 0, Canterbury Association 2 bt Rockdale City Suns 0.

UNDER 16: St George vs Canterbury M'Ville W/O, Bankstown Association 2 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Illawarra Lions 4 bt Blacktown Association 0, Ryde City 2 drew AC.

SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MARIN IN CANBERRA

THIRD FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

USA COMPLETE THE DREAM

USA 0
CHINA 0
USA win 5-4 on penalty shootout
Rose Bowl, Pasadena
Crowd: 90,185

Team USA added the golden touch to this breakthrough Women's World Cup event by claiming a home victory over China in Saturday's final at the Rose Bowl in Los Angeles, decided on a penalty shootout after no goals were scored by the end of extra-time.

Three US players emerged as the heroes, each making a single significant moment's contribution to finally secure the victory in the tightest of contests — Kristine Lilly who cleared a certain goal off the line in the first period of golden goal extra-time; keeper Briana Scurry who saved the third Chinese penalty in the shootout; all finished off by Brandi Chastain with the final successful penalty sealing the 5-4 shootout win and the world crown.

After a buzzing opening fifteen minutes with both sides displaying neat deft touches, it seemed like we were in for one spectacular bash.

Unfortunately however the match as a whole soon waned in quality and creativity as the players tired in the plus 90 degree F heat.

The new world record crowd for a women's sporting event of 90,185 provided the most thrilling of backdrops, a moving sea of red, white and blue dotted with small pockets of Chinese supporters in red.

But they were not to be rewarded with a goal from either side during regulation time and the match did not live up again until extra-time.

China had adopted a somewhat defensive strategy, waiting to hit on the counterattack, a style which denied the crowd of their usual dynamic play up front which had become their trademark throughout the Cup. USA fought hard throughout but found it tough to break through the disciplined Chinese backline.

What ensued was an intense tug-of-war, a struggle of minds, with neither able to take the situation by the scruff of the neck and claim control.

Solid defensive performances by both teams cancelled out each other and the promise of Mia Hamm or Sun Wen to create some magic on goal never eventuated.

US midfielder Michelle Akers battled tooth and nail in the centre of the park but was forced from the field in

the break before extra-time, suffering from heat exhaustion.

China then picked up a gear and looked ominously dangerous for the entire first half of extra-time, finally penetrating the American defence led by the mastery of Sun Wen in midfield.

Ten minutes in, a Chinese corner kick floated to the far post was met powerfully by the head of defender Fan Yunjie rising above two defenders from eight metres.

But the certain goal was headed off the line by veteran Lilly, still stationed on the left post. With the keeper beaten, it was Lilly who saved America's bacon and kept their hopes alive at a time when they looked to be goners.

Surviving that 15 minute onslaught, the tide turned again for the second period of extra-time, the US digging deep to dominate play, but still no goal was found to break the deadlock. China was barely given another sniff at victory after they had come ever so close.

So the Third FIFA Women's World Cup was to be decided from the pressure of a penalty shootout. The turning point was to be Scurry's fantastic diving save to deny midfielder Liu Ying from converting China's third penalty attempt.

Clearly pumped up, Scurry came forward off her line

and went down to her left to punch the ball away, fortunate not to be called back for the early forward movement.

The US held their nerve, converting all five from the spot through Carla Overbeck, Joy Fawcett, Lilly, Mia Hamm, and finally

Chastain to secure the 5-4 shootout victory and win back the World Cup title they had first taken at the inaugural World Cup in China in 1991.

US President Bill Clinton was on hand at the Rose Bowl to witness the home victory and paid a visit to the Chinese and then the US Team dressing rooms at the conclusion of the on-field presentations.

China were disappointed not to take the glory in what was probably their best opportunity, especially after almost scoring the golden goal. Once again they had gone down to the US, bridesmaids for a second time to repeating their silver placing at the 1996 Olympic Games. The Chinese press later came out saying poor officiating helped the American victory.



USA: Briana Scurry, Carla Overbeck (c), Brandi Chastain, Kate Sobrero, Joy Fawcett, Kristine Lilly, Michelle Akers (Sara Whalen 91), Julie Foudy, Mia Hamm, Tiffeny Milbrett (Tisha Venturini 115), Cindy Parlow (Shannon MacMillan 57).

China: Gao Hong, Wang Liping, Fan Yunjie, Wen Lirong, Zhao Lihong (Qiu Haiyan 113), Liu Ying, Pu Wei, Sun Wen (c), Bai Jie, Liu Ailing (Zhang Ouying 59), Jin Yan.

ALL-STARS ANNOUNCED

The MasterCard All-Star Team has been announced at a press conference in recognition of the best performed players throughout the 1999 Women's World Cup.

FIFA's Technical Study Group was charged with the responsibility of the selections, finalising the All-Star sixteen from their initial listing of 50 players.

The Study Group consisted of technical specialists from Switzerland, Canada, Japan, France, Sweden, Holland and Nigeria.

The sixteen honoured with selection were -

GAO Hong	GK	China	31 yrs
Briana SCURRY	GK	USA	27
WANG Liping	Def	China	25
WEN Lirong	Def	China	30
Doris FITSCHEN	Def	Germany	30

Carla OVERBECK	Def	USA	31
Brandi CHASTAIN	Def	USA	30
SISSI	Mid	Brazil	32
LIU Ailing	Mid	China	32
Michelle AKERS	Mid	USA	33
Bettina WIEGMANN	Mid	Germany	27
ZHAO Lihong	Mid	China	27
JIN Yan	Fwd	China	26
SUN Wen	Fwd	China	26
Ann AARONES	Fwd	Norway	26
Mia HAMM	Fwd	USA	27

China clearly dominated the selections with seven representatives, followed by USA with five. Exactly half of the players deemed the best at this event are aged 30 or over.

WOMEN'S SOCCER MAKES ITS MARK

Women's Soccer is out there. This Third FIFA Women's World Cup will forever last in the memory of all who have been swept up in its all-embracing excitement and passion.

The event has captured the imagination of an entire nation. Never before have female athletes commanded such attention. The soccer community knew this was going to be something big but no-one could have imagined just how huge the impact would be.

How many people honestly believed that women's soccer could sell-out such an enormous stadium as the famous Rose Bowl to the new world record mark of 90,185?

The soccer family was always going to get behind the event and they played a big role in initiating local interest especially at the grassroots level. So obvious with this event was the family presence, young girls and boys bringing along mum and dad.

But the biggest victory of this event was to reel in those outside the circle, people who had not previously been involved in soccer or women's sport in general.

Those who perhaps thought women's sport was not as skilful or exciting, those who had never seen females play soccer, those who would never consider watching anything but baseball, gridiron or ice hockey.

There are so many fantastic tales of those outsiders suddenly being converted to women's soccer with this

their first taste of the game, even people who staunchly disliked soccer or women's sport previously.

The macho man in the street, teenage boys and guys in their early 20s, adults not particularly followers of any sport, journalists who had previously put down women's sport and/or soccer in general in former times were suddenly moved to the point they found themselves writing features on the phenomenon that women's soccer had created.

The popular David Letterman was one such media convert. After publicly denouncing women's sport, organisers asked that he come along to the opening match at Giants Stadium and see for himself what women's football is all about.

He was so overcome with the sport and the occasion, that he talked about it on his TV show every night for the rest of the week.

The World Cup and Team USA has been splashed on every front page of every newspaper spanning the country. Features, photographs and profiles have infiltrated mainstream publications of every description. Women's soccer has cracked its way into every household by way of that most powerful of mediums — television.

Apart from the screening of all 32 World Cup matches here in America, one major influence and popular conversation piece has been the different series

of television advertisements — each very clever and imaginative and taking women's soccer to a human, personal level. Adidas, Nike, and Gatorade have reached out to the general public with their ads which everyone looks forward to watching, again and again and again.

One series portrays star World Cup players from both the US and abroad as toddlers first displaying various soccer skills.

Another features US star Mia Hamm taking on even bigger superstar Michael Jordan in a number of sports, ending with Hamm flipping Jordan in a judo throw. Another takes a comical look at the US philosophy that everything is done as a team. One other ad shows a group of young girls out enjoying their game of soccer.

Team USA has played such a huge role in building the World Cup to the success story it has become.

Without a whimper, they carried out the growing media commitments throughout the event, regarding this as important a duty as their job out on the park.

Their professionalism and willingness in meeting the demanding schedule deserves the highest recognition.

Their results on the park in turn lifted the demands and the rollercoaster ride, but still they never let the media down.

It was common for players to still be out answering media requests a full ninety minutes after the conclusion of the how and a half slog out on the field, without

having showered or rested after the match.

Much credit must go to the Women's World Cup organisers, led by the mastery and imagination of Chairperson Donna de Varona and President/CEO Marla Messing.

They held a belief and had the guts to take a risk. They were able to win the battle to convince other key people and organisations that it could work.

Even their high expectations were exceeded as the train gathered speed and created an infectious public support.

To witness the fever first-hand was an unbelievable experience, so thrilling and inspiring.

The packed stadiums, male and female fans of all ages with their faces painted and decked out in all red, white and blue cheering at the top their lungs.

Youngsters waiting hours for just a glimpse of their heroes, tiny kids kicking the ball out in the carpark, girls adorned in Mia Hamm t-shirts with the slogan 'Goal Girl' proudly emblazoned across their back.

Teenage boys unashamed to display their support with hand-scratched posters and dyed hair.

Now the job that remains is to take fullest advantage of what has been created here, not only in the US but more importantly throughout every corner of the globe.

VICTORIAN LEAGUES



CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 17

Richmond 1 - Yarraville Glory 1
Oakleigh 0 - Werribee City 1
North Geelong Warriors 0 - Westgate 1
Lalor United 1 - Doncaster Rovers 2
Springvale City 2 - Kingston City 0
Melbourne City 2 - Western Suburbs 3
Northcote City 0 - Heidelberg United 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heidelberg United	17	11	4	2	41	22	37
Oakleigh	17	10	4	3	32	17	34
Lalor United	17	10	3	4	37	23	33
Westgate	17	10	2	5	31	22	32
Western Suburbs	17	8	3	6	29	24	27
Richmond	17	6	6	5	25	27	24
Doncaster Rovers	17	6	5	6	32	26	23
Yarraville Glory	17	6	5	6	29	28	23
Nth Geelong Warriors	17	4	8	5	24	24	20
Springvale City	17	5	3	9	16	25	18
Northcote City	17	5	2	10	33	37	17
Melbourne City	17	5	2	10	25	37	17
Kingston City	17	4	3	10	18	37	15
Werribee City	17	2	4	11	17	40	10

ROUND 18 FIXTURES

Sunday July 18

Springvale City v Northcote City
Western Suburbs v Lalor United
Doncaster Rovers v North Geelong Warriors
Westgate v Oakleigh
Werribee City v Richmond
Kingston City v Yarraville Glory

Monday July 19

Heidelberg United v Melbourne City (kick off 8.15pm)

DIVISION 2 - ROUND 17

Ringwood City 2 - Cranbourne Comets 0
Knox City 0 - Diamond Valley United 1
Thomastown/Regent 0 - Altona City 3
Frankston Pines 3 - Frankston Strikers 1
Satellite City Rovers 0 - Old Scotch Waverley 0
Essendon 5 - Geelong 2
East Richmond 2 - Croydon City Arrows 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essendon	17	11	6	0	46	11	39
Frankston Pines	16	10	5	1	42	18	35
Geelong	17	8	5	4	31	30	29
East Richmond	17	7	5	5	25	25	26
Knox City	17	7	4	6	24	19	25
Old Scotch Waverley	16	7	4	5	15	18	25
Altona City	17	7	3	7	17	26	24
Cranbourne Comets	17	6	5	6	28	25	23
Frankston Strikers	17	5	4	8	28	27	19
Satellite City Rovers	17	5	4	8	18	29	19
Ringwood City	17	4	5	8	21	34	17
Thomastown/Regent	17	4	4	9	28	33	16
Diamond Valley United	17	3	5	9	18	33	14
Croydon City Arrows	17	2	5	10	17	30	11

ROUND 18 FIXTURES

Saturday July 17

Satellite City Rovers v East Richmond
Croydon City Arrows v Essendon
Geelong v Frankston Pines
Frankston Strikers v Thomastown/Regent
Altona City v Knox City
Diamond Valley United v Ringwood City
Old Scotch Waverley v Cranbourne Comets

DIVISION 3 - ROUND 17

Fitzroy City 1 - Keilor Park 2
Broadmeadows City 0 - South Wantirna 2
Williamstown 1 - Bell Park 1
Mooroolbark 0 - South Springvale 2
Laverton Park 1 - Pascoe Vale 3
North Coburg United 3 - Moreland City 1
Banyule City 0 - Stonnington City 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	17	11	4	2	41	22	37
South Wantirna	17	10	3	4	33	16	33
Fitzroy City	17	9	6	2	37	21	33
North Coburg United	17	10	3	4	33	23	33

South Springvale	17	8	8	1	31	11	32
Moreland City	17	7	4	6	30	24	25
Laverton Park	17	6	7	4	27	22	25
Williamstown	17	5	4	8	28	35	19
Keilor Park	17	6	1	10	22	30	19
Mooroolbark	17	5	4	8	18	31	19
Pascoe Vale	17	5	3	9	27	37	18
Bell Park	17	3	6	8	21	35	15
Broadmeadows City	16	3	2	11	20	36	11
Banyule City	16	0	5	11	13	38	5

ROUND 18 FIXTURES

Saturday July 17

Laverton Park v Banyule City
Stonnington City v North Coburg United
Moreland City v Mooroolbark
South Springvale v Bell Park
Williamstown v Broadmeadows City
South Wantirna v Fitzroy City
Pascoe Vale v Keilor Park

DIVISION 4 - ROUND 17

Corio 1 - Melton 2

Keysborough 0 - Nunawading City 1
Geelong Rangers 2 - Sandringham City 1
Langwarrin 0 - Seaford United 1
Sunbury United 3 - Lalor 2
Chelsea 2 - Lyndale United 1
Croxton Park 1 - Clifton Hill United 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	17	15	1	1	61	16	46
Sandringham City	17	11	2	4	55	31	35
Lyndale United	16	9	4	3	36	23	31
Seaford United	17	9	3	5	37	31	30
Croxton Park	17	6	9	2	35	25	27
Melton	17	8	3	6	27	24	27
Sunbury United	17	7	2	8	31	30	23
Geelong Rangers	17	6	4	7	26	34	22
Clifton Hill United	17	5	2	10	25	42	17
Keysborough	17	4	4	9	33	31	16
Corio	17	4	4	9	21	39	16
Lalor	16	4	3	9	23	36	15
Chelsea	17	3	5	9	21	41	14
Nunawading City	17	3	2	12	19	47	11

ROUND 18 FIXTURES

Saturday July 17

Sunbury United v Croxton Park
Clifton Hill United v Chelsea
Lyndale United v Langwarrin
Seaford United v Geelong Rangers
Sandringham City v Keysborough
Nunawading City v Corio
Lalor v Melton



WOMEN'S LEAGUES

PREMIER DIVISION - ROUND 12

Endeavour United 0 - Essendon A 3
Westvale v Keilor Park - no result received
South Melbourne 2 - Manningham 4
Cranbourne A - bye
Heidelberg United - bye

Table - Cranbourne A 27, Manningham 21, Keilor Park 19, Westvale 14, Essendon A 11, South Melbourne 10, Heidelberg United 0, Endeavour United 0.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

Sunday July 18

Heidelberg United v South Melbourne
Manningham v Westvale
Keilor Park v Endeavour United
Cranbourne A - bye
Essendon A - bye

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 12

Ballarat Strikers 0 - Cranbourne B 3
Waverley Taipans v Knox County - no result received
Yarraville Glory v Newborough/Yallourn - no result received
Endeavour Hills - bye
Seaford United - bye

Table - Cranbourne B 28, Newborough/Yallourn 16, Yarraville Glory 14, Knox County 11, Seaford United 11, Endeavour Hills 9, Waverley Taipans 7, Ballarat Strikers 3.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

Sunday July 18

Seaford United v Yarraville Glory
Newborough/Yallourn v Waverley Taipans
Endeavour Hills v Ballarat Strikers
Cranbourne B - bye
Knox County - bye

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - RD 12

Brimbank v Brunswick City - no result received
Ballarat City 3 - Essendon B 0
Mill Park 2 - Fairfield Falcons A 2
Eltham North 5 - Calder Strikers 3
Thornbury United v Laverton Park - no result received
Table - Ballarat City 29, Laverton Park 24, Eltham North 23, Brunswick City 22, Brimbank 21, Calder Strikers 17, Fairfield Falcons A 14, Essendon B 9, Mill Park 7, Thornbury United 0.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

Sunday July 18

Laverton Park v Eltham North
Calder Strikers v Mill Park
Brunswick City v Thornbury United
Fairfield Falcons A v Ballarat City
Essendon B v Brimbank

DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST - RD 12

Bentleigh Greens 2 - Monash University 0
Gippsland Falcons 3 - South Wantirna 0
Frankston Pines v Springvale City - no result received
Carrington - bye
Monbulk - bye

Table - Bentleigh Greens 27, Carrington 19, Gippsland Falcons 18, Springvale City 17, Monash University 9, South Wantirna 8, Monbulk 7, Frankston Pines 0

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

Sunday July 18

Springvale City v Gippsland Falcons
Monbulk v Bentleigh Greens
Monash University v Carrington
South Wantirna - bye
Frankston Pines - bye

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - RD 12

Pascoe Vale 1 - Maribyrnong United 0
Fairfield Falcons B v Melbourne Raiders - no result received
North Reservoir 1 - Melton 0
Diamond Valley United v La Trobe University - no result received
Deakin University - bye
Table - North Reservoir 30, Melton 25, Melbourne Raiders 18, Fairfield Falcons B 16, Pascoe Vale 15, La Trobe University 13, Deakin University 9, Diamond Valley United 4, Maribyrnong United 2.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

Sunday July 18

La Trobe University v North Reservoir
Melton v Fairfield Falcons B
Deakin University v Diamond Valley United
Melbourne Raiders v Pascoe Vale
Maribyrnong United - bye

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - RD 12

Box Hill Inter 4 - East Bentleigh 0
Monash Gryphon v Crystal United - no result received
Hampton Park v Melbourne University - postponed
Sandringham City - bye
Table - Hampton Park 18, Box Hill Inter 14, Melbourne University 11, Sandringham City 5, Monash Gryphon 5, Crystal United 3, East Bentleigh 3.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

Sunday July 18

Crystal United v Box Hill Inter
Sandringham City v Hampton Park
Melbourne University v Monash Gryphon
East Bentleigh - bye

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 14

Dandenong 2 - Templestowe Eagles 2
Brunswick City 1 - North Sunshine Eagles 0
Endeavour United 2 - Monbulk 1
Morwell Pegasus 3 - Springvale Condors 1
South Caulfield 2 - Mucham United 2
Riversdale 1 - Sydenham Park 2
Table - Endeavour United 37, Morwell Pegasus 32, Brunswick City 31, Sydenham Park 26, Riversdale 23, Mitcham United 21, Templestowe Eagles 13, North Sunshine Eagles 13, Monbulk 12, Dandenong 9, South Caulfield 9, Springvale Condors 6.

ROUND 14 FIXTURES

Saturday July 17

Sydenham Park v South Caulfield
Mitcham United v Morwell Pegasus
Springvale Condors v Endeavour United
Templestowe Eagles v Riversdale
Monbulk v Brunswick City
North Sunshine Eagles v Dandenong

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - RD 14

Ballarat 1 - Elwood City 2
Somerton City 5 - Meadow Park 0
Hoppers Crossing 2 - South Yarra 0
Broadmeadows United 1 - Keon Park 0
Glenroy 2 - University of Melbourne 1
Melbourne University 1 - Mill Park 6
Table - Hoppers Crossing 31, Glenroy 31, Elwood City 26, Somerton City 24, University of Melbourne 23, Ballarat 19, Mill Park 18, Broadmeadows United 18, Melbourne University 16, South Yarra 9, Keon Park 9, Meadow Park 7.

ROUND 15 FIXTURES

Saturday July 17

Mill Park v Glenroy
University of Melbourne v Broadmeadows United
Keon Park v Hoppers Crossing
Elwood City v Melbourne University
South Yarra v Somerton City
Meadow Park v Ballarat

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 14

Clayton 4 - Brandon Park 0
Dandenong Inter 4 - Newborough/Yallourn 2
Noble Park 3 - Heatherton United 2
Doveton 1 - Braeside United 4
Monash University 2 - Dingley City 1
Ashburton 2 - Waverley Wanderers 4
Table - Clayton 33, Waverley Wanderers 32, Doveton 29, Dingley City 23, Heatherton United 20, Newborough/Yallourn 19, Brandon Park 19, Ashburton 14, Monash University 14, Dandenong Inter 12, Braeside United 12, Noble Park 11.

ROUND 15 FIXTURES

Saturday July 17

Waverley Wanderers v Monash University
Dingley City v Doveton
Braeside United v Noble Park
Brandon Park v Ashburton
Heatherton United v Dandenong Inter
Newborough/Yallourn v Clayton

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - RD 14

Flemington Falcons 0 - Northern United 3
Whittlesea United 4 - Brimbank City 0
West Preston 1 - La Trobe University 0
Watsonia Heights 3 - Keilor United 2
Brimbank 5 - North Glenroy 2
North Reservoir 0 - Darebin United 2
Table - Whittlesea United 36, North Glenroy 30, Darebin United 24, Brimbank 24, Keilor United 21, Brimbank City 20, La Trobe University 19, Flemington Falcons 15, North Reservoir 14, Northern United 14, Watsonia Heights 12, West Preston 9.

ROUND 15 FIXTURES

Sunday July 18

Darebin United v Brimbank
North Glenroy v Watsonia Heights
Keilor United v West Preston
Northern United v North Reservoir
La Trobe University v Whittlesea United
Brimbank City v Flemington Falcons

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - RD 14

Beaumaris 3 - Ivanhoe United 2
Newport United 1 - Endeavour Hills 4
Rowville Eagles 1 - Noble Park United 2
Collingwood City 3 - Thornbury United 0
North Caulfield 5 - Old Camberwell Grammar 1
Moreland United 5 - Parkmore 2
Table - Noble Park United 30, Moreland United 29, North Caulfield 28, Endeavour Hills 24, Collingwood City 23, Ivanhoe United 20, Rowville Eagles 18, Thornbury United 18, Old Camberwell Grammar 14, Beaumaris 11, Parkmore 8, Newport United 7.

ROUND 15 FIXTURES

Sunday July 18

Parkmore v North Caulfield
Old Camberwell Grammar v Collingwood City
Thornbury United v Rowville Eagles
Ivanhoe United v Moreland United
Noble Park United v Newport United
Endeavour Hills v Beaumaris

eat well  live well

PREMIER LEAGUE

PRESTON SURPRISED
BY ALTONA EASTALTONA EAST 3
PRESTON 1

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Preston Lions' championship aspirations all but slipped away with a 3-1 defeat to Altona East Phoenix on Sunday.

Despite leading 1-0 at half time, Preston fell apart in the second half, conceding three goals.

Altona East's second half blitz does much for their cause, though with games against Port Melbourne, Bulleen, Westvale and Springvale White Eagles to come, avoiding the drop will still remain a difficult task.

But on Sunday's showing they are a good bet to survive.

Sasa Ogenovski had already tested the Phoenix before Warren Spink gave the Lions a ninth minute lead when he headed in Sasho Slavovski's cross.

Preston looked to be doing it fairly comfortably but a minute into the second half, they went to water.

Nick Papadopoulos' run was ended by a clumsy Antony Burlak challenge inside the area and referee Rick Arturi quickly pointed the spot.

Papadopoulos had little trouble sending Lupce Acevski the wrong way although the Preston 'keeper was more than a little unlucky when the Phoenix scored again in the 63rd minute.

Steven Bartol, played through by Len Catalano, saw his shot hit an upright and bounce into the net off the unfortunate Acevski.

A minute later, Acevski was beaten again as Papadopoulos scrambled in his second for the game.

George Angelos also hit a post for the Phoenix as Preston searched for a way back into the game.

Phoenix: Frangos, R. Antoniadis, Kapulicu, De Amicis, Schwal, T. Antoniadis, Davis (Petrovski), Groidis (L. Catalano), Bartol, Papadopoulos, Angelos (F. Catalano).

Lions: Acevski, Slavovski, Filipovski (Ujgunovski), Ogenovski, Kozic, Spink, Burlak (Sterjovski), Emsovski, Dimeski, Stojcevski (Talevski), Graham.

Referee: Rick Arturi

Votes: 3- Papadopoulos (AE), 2- Bartol (AE), 1- Kozic (PL).

FAWKNER 1
BULLEEN 1

By George Koukeris

Though the 1999 season is drawing to a close for both Fawkner Blues and Bulleen Inter Kings, it didn't stop them showcasing a fantastic match on Sunday, sharing the points in a 1-1 draw.

The Kings had the better of the first half, pressing a stronger contingent in Agim Sherifovski, Anthony Grbac, Sava Rusmir and Danny Gnjidic to work their way through the Blues defence.

In the 28th minute, defender Robert Stojcevski delivered one of his trademark crosses into the face of goal.

Blues 'keeper Maurice Gonzales and Gnjidic collided, and Sherifovski moved in quick for the loose ball but wasted a clear chance, shooting over the crossbar.

Two minutes later, the Blues responded in almost identical fashion. Santo Emmanuele brilliantly carved his way past the last man but fired his shot against the post.

Enzo De Santis picked up the rebound but his effort was more at home in a game of Aussie Rules.

In the second stanza, the Kings broke the deadlock in the 4th minute of play. It came from a defensive error as Gonzales mistimed a back-pass from Mark Vazzocchi and paid dearly for it when Rusmir came from nowhere to neatly put away his shot.



In the 63rd minute, the Blues equalised in superb style. Veteran ace Josip Biskic took the ball deep into the penalty area and then switched across the face for the incoming John Grimaud, who made no mistake placing the ball into the net.

Blues: Gonzales, Tramontana, Grimaud, P. Ferrante, Schipano, Vazzocchi, De Santis (Bordignon), Biskic, Emmanuele, Duzel (Psarros), Collins.

Kings: Keogh, Stojcevski, Everetts (Valentic), Della Rocca, Mazzini, Waddell (Thomas), Gnjidic, Sherifovski, Grbac, Rusmir, Di Vitto (Tartaglia).

Referee: Bruno D'Antello

Votes: 3- Duzel (FB), 2- Rusmir (BK), 1- Grimaud (FB).

ST ALBANS 6
SUNSHINE 0

By Ivan Perkovic

Dark threatening clouds and a heavy pitch, had the spectators thinking this match was going to be one of those relegation type battles — it turned out to be a one-sided derby.

The Saints hit the Georgies for six, and so disappeared any slim chance Sunshine had of playing Premier League football next season. On the other hand, a rejuvenated St Albans made a positive step to staying up.

The first ten minutes were even, both sides were playing well; the turning point was the first goal, which Hrvoje 'Harry' Karl scored via his predatory goal instincts.

It was in the 12th minute when Damian Vojtek was fouled 16 yards from goal, his ensuing free-kick was dropped by Steve Wardle and Karl did the rest.

Slowly St Albans added the pressure and duty scored the second.

It was the 25th minute when Vojtek threaded the ball through for Ivan Razov to shoot and score on the turn.

The build-up involved Slavko Rados, Greg Saric and Karl — who used improvisation and one touch passing to make this goal, 2-0 at half time. After the break, the Saints asserted their dominance.

In the 48th minute, a lovely dummy by Saric allowed Razov to easily beat Wardle and score his second of the match.

After this goal, unfortunately for John Kanesoulis, the Sunshine heads dropped. When Vojtek curled a 20 yard free-kick around the outside of the wall to make it 4-0, it was time for one of those 'fancy' touches that desert you when you're 1-0 up.

The fifth arrived in the 61st after Saric had swung in a corner, pinpointing it to the head of Kon Sianidis who had worked so hard in the St Albans midfield.

In the 76th minute Harry Karl completed the win with his second. Vojtek gained possession and intelligently released Sianidis who ran to the bye-line and crossed low for the oncoming Karl, 6-0.

When the match ended the chants began ringing from the St Albans changing rooms and the confidence to stay in the Premier League had instantly returned.

Saints: Vunderl, J. Cuze (M. Cuze), Raspudic, Karl, S. Rados, Mikulic (I. Rados), Sianidis (Colina), Vojtek, Saric, I. Razov, Movric.

Georgies: Wardle, Krajacic, Rozantits, Debono (Olguin), Kanesoulis, Monitto, Recchia, Opazo, Stojanovski, Elvin, Bot.

Referee: Peter Ralevski

Votes: 3- Sianidis (StA), 2- Saric (StA), 1- Vojtek (StA).



SOUTH STILL ALIVE

SOUTH DANDENONG 4
ALTONA MAGIC 2

By Kevin Christopher

South Dandenong significantly improved their hopes of avoiding relegation with a stirring 4-2 victory over Altona Magic on Saturday afternoon.

While they remain in 12th place, after this performance they can look forward with confidence to their final two home matches against St Albans and Melbourne Raiders, matches which seem certain to decide the fate of all three clubs.

Altona Magic are hardly out of danger themselves, although a home victory over St Albans next week would see them take a giant step towards safety. But at George Andrews Reserve, they were beaten by a more determined side when it mattered — in the final thirty minutes.

Up until that point the two sides had been evenly matched. South Dandy started well, and should have led after just 12 minutes when Festim Zekirija had time to pick his spot but his shot cannoned off the base of the upright.

Six minutes later Nick van Egmond showed how it was done when he rifled in a free kick from the corner of the penalty area, although the presence of Carlo Villani may well have distracted 'keeper Darren McGrath.

Altona responded with Zoran Trajcevski putting the visitors on level terms after 31 minutes, tucking away a rebound after South's 'keeper Chris Roche could only parry Zoran Todorovski's initial shot.

Trajcevski also had a hand in Altona's second after 59 minutes. He played a long free kick into the penalty area which Roche seemed certain to collect,

but a fumble was pounced on by Petrevski who slotted the ball into the empty net.

Within three minutes South were level, after Idriz Pelja had released Villani down the left and his excellent low cross was met at the far post by a sliding Reshat Mezensof.

The home side were awarded a penalty with 15 minutes remaining when Villani was upended by Simon Micevski, and Mezensof calmly sent McGrath the wrong way to give Souths a deserved lead.

The icing was provided by Villani just five minutes later when he took advantage of a bad mix-up in the Magic defence to steal the ball, go around McGrath and shoot home from an acute angle.

The Magic's dire day was complete when Tom Markovski was taken to hospital following an aerial collision with Roche in, ironically, injury time.

The match was held up for 28 minutes and the decision by referee Jeremy Blaney to play the remaining one minute and 48 seconds was considered dubious by a number of paying customers.

A spokesman from Dandenong Hospital later revealed that after precautionary X-rays, Markovski was expected to be released rather than kept in overnight.

South: Roche, Wright, Lumanovski, Gurpinar, Buhic (Mezensof), Pelja, Kirichian, V. Memeti, Van Egmond, Villani, Zekirija (Mucay).

Magic: McGrath, T. Markovski, Micevski, Tasevski, Bozinovski, Sapazovski, Vasilevski, Velkovski, Trajcevski, Petrevski, Todorovski (S. Markovski).

Referee: Jeremy Blaney

Votes: 3- Lumanovski (SD), 2- T. Markovski (AM), 1- V. Memeti (SD).

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ROUND 21

Westvale 2 (Markovski, Bergam) - Melbourne Raiders 3 (Jolevski, Lingurovski, Sallevski)
Bulleen Inter Kings 1 (Grbac) - Green Gully Cavaliers 2 (Genovesi, Vassallo)

ROUND 22

South Dandenong 4 (Van Egmond, Mezensof 2, Villani) -
Altona Magic 2 (Trajcevski, Petrevski)
Altona East Phoenix 3 (Papadopoulos 2, Bartol) - Preston Lions 1 (Spink)
Bentleigh Greens 3 (Micheli, Nilo, own goal) - Port Melbourne Sharks 0
Fawkner Blues 1 (Grimaud) - Bulleen Inter Kings 1 (Rusmir)
St Albans Saints 6 (Karl 2, Sianidis, Vojtek, I. Razov 2) - Sunshine Georgies 0
Green Gully v Westvale and Melbourne Raiders v Springvale White Eagles
played Monday night

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully Cavaliers	21	13	■	2	43	19	45
Port Melbourne Sharks	22	13	4	5	49	28	43
Preston Lions	22	13	2	7	42	31	41
Bentleigh Greens	22	11	5	6	53	27	38
Fawkner Blues	22	10	4	8	34	29	34
Bulleen Inter Kings	22	8	6	8	30	28	30
St Albans Saints	22	9	2	11	34	33	29
Altona Magic	22	8	4	10	31	41	28
Altona East Phoenix	22	7	6	9	26	31	27
Melbourne Raiders	21	7	5	9	26	38	26
Springvale White Eagles	21	7	4	10	32	33	25
South Dandenong	22	6	6	10	39	49	24
Westvale	21	4	7	10	29	51	19
Sunshine Georgies	22	4	3	15	22	52	15

ROUND 23 FIXTURES

Saturday July 17

Altona Magic v St Albans Saints - kick off 7pm at Paisley Park

Sunday July 18

Preston Lions v South Dandenong - kick off 3pm at Goodyear Stadium
Sunshine Georgies v Melbourne Raiders - kick off 3pm at Chaplin Reserve
Springvale White Eagles v Green Gully Cavaliers - kick off 3pm at Serbian Sports Centre
Port Melbourne Sharks v Altona East - kick off 3pm at Anderson Reserve

Monday July 19

Westvale v Fawkner Blues - kick off 8.15pm at Knights Stadium
Bulleen Inter Kings v Bentleigh Greens - kick off 8.15pm at Veneto Club



QUEENSLAND

MAKING HIS MARK IN SOCCER

"Yes, yes, yes, yes and in case you misunderstand me, yes," was the reply that Mark Shield gave to Soccer Australia when asked if he was available to referee a Socceroos and Manchester United clash.

It will be the pinnacle of the Queenslander's refereeing career to date, when he steps onto the revered MCG to take control of the game this Thursday.

Born in Rockhampton in 1973, Shield first played for the Silkwood Tigers in Innisfail before moving to St Francis in Ayr. Shield decided when aged 15 years old, he enjoyed being a referee more.

"I was only an average player so I decided to give playing away and continue refereeing which I had started when I was 12 years old," said Shield.

Local Innisfail referees Norm Millard and Dr Jimmy Hill were instrumental as his first instructors and at the age of 16, Shield found himself in control of his first senior match in Townsville's Division Three competition.

It was a game between Aitkenvale and Polonia with Shield remembering one of the captains saying, "Take it easy on the Ref, he's only a young fella."

On finishing school at Ayr State High, Shield attended the University of Central Queensland in Rockhampton and spent the next three years completing his Bachelor of Business while continuing to referee Central Queensland senior fixtures.

At the end of 1993 he was appointed to the National Youth League Referees panel, where he travelled to Perry Park in Brisbane for his first duty with the Queensland Academy of Sport playing Parramatta Eagles.

That Christmas, Shield moved closer to the action and took up residence in Brisbane.

For the next two years, he continued officiating in the Youth League and also refereed the 1995 Queensland Premier League grand final between Rochdale Rovers and Brisbane City.

"It was an honour to get the grand final," Shield said.

"So many great Queensland referees had done the job in the past, like Bill Monteverde and Des Miles."

An appointment to the National League in 1995 saw Shield step up to the big time and control his first ever national league game — Round 1, Sydney United v West Adelaide.

"It was really nerve racking," Shield said.

"But it was exciting at the same time. I had only ever done about six Premier League matches before and this was match of the round as well."

Shield's first international experience came at the age of 23, when during the first Optus World Soccer series held at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane, he controlled the Norway v New Zealand game.

This was also the year that the Brisbane Strikers took out the championship and Shield watched every minute of the game.

"I had the best seat in the house, I was reserve referee."

"It was fabulous and a great day for Queensland soccer with 40,000 spectators," Shield said.

However it was December 1998 that will always be remembered by Shield. You see it was Christmas Eve when the postman delivered a most desirable Christmas present to his home address.

"I nearly crash tackled the postman when he stopped at the letter box," Shield said.



Mark Shield will referee Thursday nights game in Melbourne.

"I had been told two days earlier that my FIFA badge was in the mail."

What made it more special was his parents, Alan and Rhonda were staying with him when it arrived, Rhonda remembered that all he had spoken about since the age of 12, was FIFA.

Now some 19 years since blowing his first whistle and only the second time controlling a Socceroos game, the 25 year old is looking forward to the match of his life.

"Refereeing the Socceroos at any time is special," Shield said.

"Being at the MCG makes it more special and then add Manchester United the world's best club, it becomes extra special."

"It will be an honour to referee this game."

Brisbane's TV audience will be able to watch the Socceroos, Manchester United and Mark Shield in action this Thursday when Channel 7 air a delayed telecast of the game at 9.30pm.

An injury time goal from youngster Scott Robertson breathed new life into Taringa Rovers Premier League title bid when they downed a brave Wynnum 2-1 at Carmichael Park on Saturday night.

The win plus a three pointer following Taringa's 6-1 midweek thumping of Mt Gravatt has revived the club's final four aspirations and prompted coach John Ogden to signal his side would not give up their faint premier-ship hopes.

Taringa had their backs to the wall after only five minutes when Wynnum midfielder Anthony Roche capitalised on a poor clearance from Taringa defender Chris Day slotting past keeper Brett Dickens who was deputising for the injured Clint Del Santo.

A cracker of a goal from Taringa's Des Hughes brought the teams back

on level terms midway through the second half when the speedy midfielder swerved past several defenders before letting loose with a thunderbolt from 18 metres.

The goal was Hughes' seventh of the season.

Wynnum's hopes of providing an upset looked dashed with 15 minutes to go when defender Wayne Hinton was sent off after an altercation with Taringa's Shaun Molenda.

However, Taringa soon lost any advantage in numbers when they too had Hughes sent off for his second bookable offence five minutes later.

The match, which went six minutes into time added on, looked set for a draw until Robertson scored from inside the box for his eighth goal of the season.

Ogden praised keeper Dickens who kept his side in the match midway through the second half after he brought off two spectacular saves.

Taringa is now back into semi-final contention following their catch-up game and are sitting just outside the top four in fifth place on 31 points with another game in hand.

"If we win our other game in hand we could move into second place it's that close," Ogden said.

"Rochdale would then be only eight points clear and we know that can easily be overhauled."

"We led the competition by nine points at this stage of the season last year and lost too many games late in the season and the same can happen to Rochdale."

"We have to play Rochdale in the last game of the season and it could be that both of us could be playing for the premiership or maybe we'll need to win it just to make the semi finals," he said.

At Eric Evans Reserve, Ipswich Knights scored a comfortable 2-0 win over a depleted Brisbane City with both goals coming from striker John Clark.

Clarke scored his first through a congested goalmouth following a hotly disputed corner in the 33rd minute while he added his second five minutes from the end when he rounded City keeper Adam Serafin.

Serafin normally plays in City's colts side but was called into the team for his premier league debut after the club suffered a string of goalkeeping injuries in recent weeks including regular custodian, Danny Duke.

Serafin was just shaded as the player of the match by his opposite Sam Ferguson who pulled off several spectacular saves including a one finger tip save low to his right off a Chris Slater header when City were trailing 1-0 with 12 minutes remaining.

In other matches, a double from striker Greg Di Losa helped Brisbane Lions to a 3-1 win over Mt Gravatt, Gold Coast held onto second place with a similar result over Toowoomba while leaders Rochdale may have ended Bundaberg's finals hope with a 3-1 win.

ROUND 21

17-07	Mt Gravatt	v	Gold Coast	7.00pm
17-07	Rochdale Rov	v	Brisbane Lions	7.00pm
18-07	Taringa Rovers	v	Brisbane City	2.45pm
18-07	Toowoomba Utd	v	Ipswich Knights	2.45pm
18-07	Wynnum	v	B'berg Waves	2.45pm

QUEENSLAND RESULTS & TABLES

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Rochdale Rov	20	14	0	6	49	30	19	42
Gold Coast	20	10	7	3	39	27	12	37
Brisbane City	20	10	3	7	37	26	11	33
Brisbane Lions	20	10	3	7	40	32	8	33
Taringa Rovers	19	9	4	6	35	21	14	31
Ipswich Knights	19	9	4	6	28	22	6	31
Bundaberg Waves	20	6	4	10	31	34	-3	22
Wynnum	20	5	2	13	29	47	-18	17
Toowoomba Utd	20	4	5	11	19	42	-23	17
Mt Gravatt	20	4	4	12	28	54	-26	16

ROUND 20 SCORES

IPSW Knights	2	Brisbane City	0
Gold Coast	3	Toowoomba Utd	1
Brisbane Lions	3	Mt Gravatt	1
B'berg Waves	1	Rochdale Rov	3
Wynnum	1	Taringa Rovers	2

DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
North Star	16	11	2	3	44	20	24	35
Albany Creek	17	9	5	3	38	24	14	32
Eastern Subs	17	9	5	3	37	24	13	32
Pine Rivers Utd	17	9	3	5	30	18	12	30
Uni of Qld	18	8	2	8	34	35	-1	26
Newmarket	17	7	4	6	27	26	1	25
The Gap	17	5	1	11	28	46	-18	16
Grange Thistle	17	3	5	9	18	40	-22	14
Mitchelton	18	1	3	14	16	39	-23	6

ROUND 20 SCORES

Pine Rivers Utd	3	Grange Thistle	1
Mitchelton	0	Albany Creek	2
Uni of Qld	4	Eastern Subs	2
The Gap	0	North Star	4

Newmarket - bye

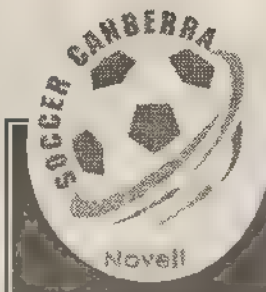
DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Rocklea Utd	18	12	3	3	55	26	29	39
Capalaba	18	12	1	5	32	19	13	37
Souths Utd	16	9	3	4	41	19	22	30
Slacks Creek	18	8	5	5	42	39	3	29
Inala City	17	7	2	8	29	43	-14	23
Beenleigh	17	6	4	7	33	36	-3	22
Redlands Utd	18	6	3	9	26	38	-12	21
Olympic Utd	18	6	0	12	30	38	-8	18
Acacia Ridge	18	1	3	14	16	46	-30	6

ROUND 20 SCORES

Inala City	0	Slacks Creek	6
Acacia Ridge	0	Redlands Utd	1
Rocklea Utd	3	Olympic Utd	1
Capalaba	1	Souths Utd	0

Beenleigh - bye



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By Graham Cooke

SERMANNI SEEKS SCOTTISH PLUNDER

With Canberra Cosmos midfielder Paul (PJ) Roberts almost certain to sign for Scottish League club Hibernian, coach Tom Sermanni plans a raid on the same competition to find a replacement.

Although nominally on holiday, Sermanni will spend much of his four-week overseas trip looking for players to fill the Cosmos' two vacant visa spots (defender Gordon Hunter, currently playing in Iceland, has already indicated he will be returning).

The coach's first target will be Chris Jackson, a former Hibernian regular, now with Stirling Albion. "I have spoken to him and he has indicated interest," Sermanni said.

"But we will wait and see if that interest is followed through when we make a definite offer."

"From there I will also be looking in at Blackpool and Torquay United, where I spent time as a player, to see if there is anyone on offer there."

"Basically, we want free players, and the offers we make to them won't make anyone rich, but I know from experience that there are quite a few people interested in furthering their experience in the Australian competition."

Although he will be coming back via Japan, where he was the former assistant coach of Hiroshima, Sermanni says he favours players from the United Kingdom.

"They generally settle in faster, with no language barriers and fewer cultural differences," he said.

The coach said he would also like to see former Cosmos goalkeeper Anthony Giannasca back with the club, even if the current first-team regular, Vilson Knezevic, fails in his attempt to make the grade overseas.

"My hope is that Tony could return in a coaching capacity, helping with Vilson, if he is here, and the two young goalkeepers on the staff, Grant Barlow and Angelo Konstantinou — this was one area of coaching where we were sadly lacking last season," he said.

"But of course, if an emergency arose in this position, it would be good to have someone like Tony around."

Sermanni also left with a warning to league organisers pressing ahead with a 17-team Ericsson Cup. "It's too large, and with so many Australian

players overseas, we don't have the talent to staff it," he said.

"We will be running the very real danger of teams folding either just before the start of the season or, worse still, after it has begun."

"The move is obviously towards clubs built on communities such as Parramatta Power, Northern Spirit, ourselves and Perth Glory, that does not mean there will not be a place for a well-run club based on ethnic lines — Marconi and South Melbourne will be around for a long time yet — but less strong set-ups which fail to adjust are heading for trouble."

But can the Cosmos survive given its appalling record in recent seasons? Sermanni says the fact it is still around after three consecutive finishes in bottom place, is proof of its resilience.

"If Sydney Olympic had gone 16 games without a point [as the Cosmos did in 1998-99] they would have sacked three coaches and be getting less than 200 at a game," he said.

"Having said that, of course we must improve. Off-field we have got things running more smoothly now than ever before, and we are gradually eating into that large debt we accumulated in the early years."

"But on the field we must do better, although whether that means we simply get off the bottom, or finish 15th or 12th or eighth, I'm not sure."

"But yes, this may well be our last chance, and I would not expect to keep my job if I fail."



Matt Valeri

Teenage striker Matt Valeri is to try his luck in the Italian Third Division, disappointed that, for the moment at least, his favoured route into the Ericsson Cup seems to be denied him.

Valeri would dearly like to follow in the footsteps of his father, Walter, and play for Canberra in the National League. However, those ambitions are now on hold.

"It's pretty clear from what we see in the news that [Canberra Cosmos coach] Tom

CANBERRA YOUNGSTERS OFF TO ITALY

Sermanni feels he has enough local players in his squad and is looking for more experienced people elsewhere in Australia and overseas," Walter said.

"Matt and I have talked it over, and we feel it's best for him to go overseas and gain some experience in European football."

Matt Valeri and former Canberra City striker Simon Agnello originally went to Italy in January and had trials in Sicily with Palermo and Messina.

"They then got asked to try out for Regina which is a second division team," Walter said. "It looked promising but eventually nothing came of it."

Just when everything seemed lost yet another third division side, Trapani, stepped in with an offer for both to begin pre-season

training on July 18.

Agnello accepted; Matt returned to Australia for a short holiday (managing one game with his old club, Gungahlin Juventus) and after talks with his family decided to also take the offer.

"A couple of seasons playing at that level in a fully professional environment can only be beneficial to both boys," Walter said.

"In trials Matt has been playing in behind the front two strikers and scoring goals, which always makes people sit up and take notice in Italy."

"And after that, they will either be picked up by bigger clubs in Europe, or come back better prepared for the national league in Australia."

CUP OF NATIONS

On a soccer field in Canberra, a team from Beijing, China, battled out a 2-2 draw with opponents from South Africa. In its ninth season, the Kanga Cup junior tournament is at last achieving its aim of becoming a competition open to the world.

New Zealand was also well represented. Several other would-be visitors sadly fell foul of Australia's tough visa requirements, but there was no doubting the international feeling around the various tournament venues last week.

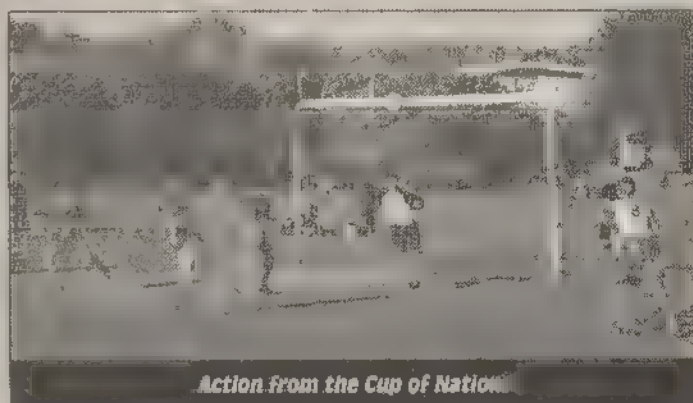
The head of delegation of the Eastern Cape Province boys under-14 team, from South Africa, Zandisile Makina, said the tournament was an eye-opener, because it truly reflects the diversity of global cultures.

"We are filled with profound joy to see so much young soccer talent from around the globe," he said.

His team also reflected the multicultural nature of South Africa, with African, Indian and white members. "It was selected from schools throughout the province, with the United Schools Sports Association of South

Africa and the South African Football Association playing a role," he said.

Makina, who is the deputy permanent secretary of the Eastern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, said the team had been invited after meetings last year had agreed on increased sporting and cultural links between Eastern Cape Province and the ACT.



Action from the Cup of Nations

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE, JULY 18

Belconnen United v Queanbeyan City
Hawker
Capital City Suns v Gungahlin Juventus
O'Connor
University of Canberra v
Weston Creek Royals
University
Monaro v Burns Club
Riverside
Canberra Deakin v Canberra Olympic
Deakin

OLYMPIC KANGA CUP PLAN DROPPED

Plans to have the 2000 Kanga Cup International Junior Tournament running alongside Olympic soccer in Canberra next September have been abandoned after teams in this year's tournament gave the idea an emphatic thumbs down.

"I am now 99 per cent certain next year's competition will be run on its traditional dates in July," tournament manager Bill Van Der Vlist said during the finals series.

Organisers had floated the suggestion as a way of getting more international entries, with the possibility of playing soccer during the day, then watching the Olympic teams perform in the evening.

However, interstate visitors from Sydney and the other Olympic soccer centres pointed out they had Games events in their own areas they wanted to attend. In some cases, they had already bought tickets.

Not surprisingly, teams from the Sydney area were most opposed to the concept, with several saying: "We will come in July, but not in September."

It is highly unlikely organisers will want to upset the balance of the Kanga Cup which Van Der Vlist said is now recognised as the premier junior international soccer competition in Australia.

While the attendance was a record, three international visitors had to withdraw because of visa difficulties. "In all three cases, there were problems perceived by the Department of Immigration, and we accept that," Van Der Vlist said.

"We are especially sorry in the case of Sikhari, from Georgia, who came last year and reached the final. This time the players and officials were granted visas, but the department was unhappy with the number of sponsors who

also wanted to make the trip.

"No sponsors, no team, but we have already opened negotiations for them to come in 2000."

The number of girls' teams was disappointing, and Van Der Vlist said it is something which will be addressed in planning during the year.

"We do a lot of publicity work in the US. That did not bear fruit this year because our tournament clashed with the Women's World Cup there, but next year we could get several entries," he said.

The finals weekend produced some outstanding matches. Oxley Predators, of Port Macquarie, came from behind to beat New Zealanders Albany Thunder 2-1 in the Under 14 Boys Division; this comeback was eclipsed by the ACT Under 15 representative squad, 3-1 down at one stage against Canberra club team Valley Suns but eventually a 5-3 winner in the Boys Under 17 section.

KANGA CUP JUNIOR

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Under 24 Men: Nadroga (NSW) 2 (Seveloni, Nenoi) ACT Under 16s 0. Fair Play Award: Knox Grammar, Nadroga 1. ACT Under 16s 2. Player of the Tournament: Caldwell (Cooma) 1, Matayalo (Nadroga) 2.

Under 17 Boys: ACT Under 15s 5 (Guzman 2, Valeri, Arnott, Cattonach) Valley Suns 3 (Aleksic 3). Fair Play Award: Tuggeranong Green 1 Manly Allambie (NSW) 2. Player of the Tournament: Charters (Radford) 1, Veljanovski (Valley Suns) 2.

Under 15 Boys: Adelaide City 3 (Bucco, Pellegamo, Santicillo) Blue Light 0. Fair Play Award: Blue Light 1, Ipswich Grammar 2. Player of the Tournament: Babic (Blue

Light) 1, Houghton (Sunshine Coast), Tonges (Sunshine Coast) 2.

Under 14 Boys: Oxley Predators (NSW) 2 (Heagney, Witt) Albany Thunder (NZ) 1 (Lemouton). Fair Play Award: Southern Spirit (NSW) 1, Sunshine Coast 2. Player of the Tournament: Han (Beijing, China) 1, Pearce (Albany Thunder), Behrendt (South West Queensland) 2.

Under 13 Boys: Canberra Deakin 3 (Connell 2, Baric) Claudeland Rovers (NZ) 0. Fair Play Award: Tuggeranong Green 1 Claudeland Rovers, STSA (NSW) 2. Player of the Tournament: Heath (Southern Spirit) 1, MacKenzie (Claudeland Rovers) 2.

Under 12 Boys: Sunshine Coast 1 (Innolend) Tuggeranong Gold 0. Fair Play Award: Tuggeranong Gold 1, Belwest 2. Player of the Tournament: Ontong (Belwest Pumas) 1, Marzotto (Belnorth Gold) 2.

Under 11 Boys: Tuggeranong United 4 (Collicicchio 3, Lee) Upper Hut (NZ) 1 (Nguyen). Fair Play Award: North Shore (NZ) 1, Tuggeranong United 2. Player of the Tournament: Kelly (North Shore, Giampaolo (Majura) 1, Madden (Upper Hut) 2.

Under 16 Girls: ACT Under 14s 6 (Cheyne 3, Borvoioski, Chapman, Kehoe) Radford 0. Fair Play Award: ACT Under 14s 1, Radford, Sunshine Coast 2. Player of the Tournament: Owens-Walton (Radford) 1, Thorpe (Sunshine Coast) 2.

Under 14 Girls: Holiday Coast 3 (Courtney, Tristram, Christian) Central Coast 0. Fair Play Award: Holiday Coast 1, Majura, Central Coast 2. Player of the Tournament: Tristram (Holiday Coast) 1, Soni (ACT Under 12s) 2.

Under 12 Girls: Tuggeranong Rosellas 2 (Green, Pritchard) Blue Light Thunderbolts 1 (Spoor). Fair Play Award: Blue Light 1 Northern Stars 2. Player of the

Tournament: Tanchevski (Northern Stars) 1, Williams (Tuggeranong Rosellas) 2.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

DIVISION 2			
O'Connor Knights	0	ANU	0
Cooma	3	Belwest Foxes	1
White Eagles	1	Tuggeranong United	9

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
O'Connor Knights	13	10	2	1	0	24	4	35
Tuggeranong United	14	9	2	0	3	43	16	31
Belwest Foxes	14	6	2	0	6	31	30	22
Cooma	14	7	0	1	6	22	24	22
ANU	14	4	4	1	8	27	34	19
Sabres	13	2	5	1	5	19	34	17
White Eagles	14	4	2	0	8	22	30	16
Defence Academy	12	1	2	0	9	9	35	7

Reserves: O'Connor Knights 1 ANU 0, Cooma 0 Belwest Foxes 3, White Eagles 4 Tuggeranong United 1.

Points: O'Connor Knights 32, Tuggeranong United 30, Belwest Foxes 27, ANU 26, White Eagles 25, Sabres 11, Defence Academy 11, Cooma 4.

ACT STATE LEAGUE

Masters: Belwest Foxes 0 ANU 5, White Eagles 3 Valley Blues 2, Kambah Old Boys 3 Tuggeranong United 2, Canberra City 1 Kambah Rovers 1.

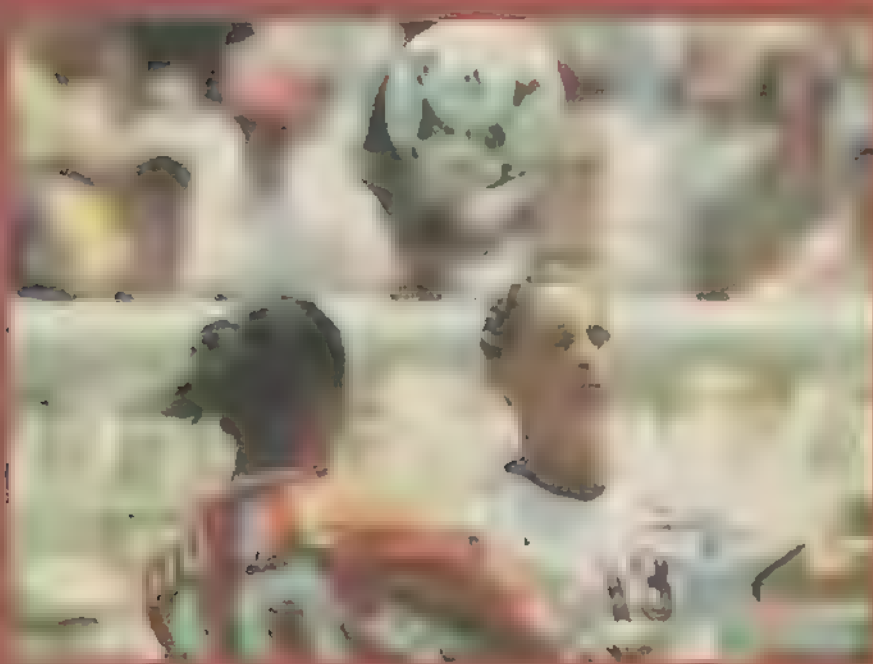
Points: Canberra City 37, University of Canberra 36, White Eagles 30, Canberra Deakin 27, Kambah Rovers 26, Kambah Old Boys 25, ANU 20, St Francis 18, Belconnen United 13, Tuggeranong United 12, Belwest Foxes 10, Valley Blues 0.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

SOCCER WEEKLY



WOMENS' WORLD
CHAMPIONS • UNITED STATES



WORLD CUP 1999

U.S. OF AMERICA • CHAMPIONS

THE WEEK IN THE GLOBAL GAME SPONSORED BY THE FOUR DIEGOS RADIO SHOW AND ADELAIDE'S COAST FM SOCCER

This is the man who missed three penalties against Columbia in one match. For more news on what went wrong, turn to page 20.

Finding his form, of old, during the Copa America. For more news on the Copa, turn to page 20.

Zamorano seems relaxed even though Chile have not impressed in the Copa. For all the latest, turn to page 21.

This man is Real Madrid's new signing. Read all about him and the rest of the European news on page 25.

The Americans go for a run towards the their big final against China. For all the news on the World Cup final, turn to page 25.

AFRICA / ASIA

Soccer Weekly

AFRICAN CONTINENT THE PROBLEM FOR CUP

Being on the African continent is helping South Africa in its bid to become 2006 World Cup host. It also is the No. 1 drawback.

"The biggest problem we have is the general perception against Africa," said Danny Jordaan, the leader of South Africa's bid committee.

"That's it's inept, that it's corrupt, that it's disease, it's hopelessness. South Africa is different. We came with different solutions to the problems of colonialism and racism.

"We didn't go through final destructive phase of flattening the country, which has happened in 80 percent of Africa."

With FIFA President Sepp Blatter repeatedly and openly announcing his support for the 2006 World Cup to go to the African continent, and with most believing that South Africa has a clear infrastructure advantage over fellow continental bidder Morocco, many consider Jordaan's bid to be the one to beat.

Germany and England are considered to be its biggest rivals, while Brazil also remains in the race. But with Africa never having hosted a World Cup, many are of the belief that the continent should be next, and in many people's opinion, that means South Africa.

"It's not pressure," Jordaan says. "The requirements will be the same for all of the candidates.

"We have the infrastructure. We have the capacity. We will meet FIFA's requirements. We will exceed FIFA's requirements."

FIFA general secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen says there are many elements that will go into any successful bid, and that no bid will be perfect. But foremost in the bid will be the technical requirements, such as stadiums, telecommunications, lodging and transportation.

And while FIFA knows it has an obligation to spread the gospel of soccer and promote its growth in places where it is not the pre-eminent sport, he says the world body must balance that with the ambiance and atmosphere expected for a World Cup when selecting a host for the quadrennial championship.

"TV is more of a problem, in terms of communication," he said. "Not only is it a concern for us, we need to make sure the football life in the stadium is attractive to not only the fan inside the stadium, but those behind the TV sets."

All candidates will present their complete bids later this year with the 24-member Executive Committee to decide on the 2006 host in March.

Jordaan says he is aware of the perceptions regarding

African sports administration, and he and his group are prepared to prove that South Africa will not suffer from some of the same problems its neighbors have in staging world championship events.

"The World Cup is a business, and business parameters must be in place," he said. "We will present a business plan, a budget that will demonstrate that a World Cup in Africa is a safe bet."

Besides the general perceptions of the African continent, Jordaan also knows he must overcome the fears about crime and safety, particularly in cities like Johannesburg.

Jordaan says Johannesburg is like any other major cosmopolitan city, with good and bad areas, but South Africa is more than capable of keeping its problems to a minimum.

"We have the capacity in the military police," he said. "We have one of the biggest military police forces in the world. Our history depended on the military police in enforcing the apartheid regime.

"We must convince the Executive Committee that personal security, and the security of the event, is a top priority."

South Africa already has hosted major events successfully such as the 1995 Rugby World Cup and will get more practice when it stages the 2003 Cricket World Cup.

"If the matter is decided on meeting FIFA requirements, the logical choice must be South Africa," Jordaan said. "It will provide for the ascendancy of African football in a new millennium."

Burkina Faso has sacked French coach Didier Notheaux, the national federation president Honore Traore said.

Traore said the federation wanted a new coach who could inject new life into the team.

"Didier Notheaux has achieved the objective he was given, that is the qualification of the senior national team for the final phase of the 2000 African Cup of Nations championship," Traore told a news conference.

"But the preparation of the team still leaves much doubt as to its ability to establish itself among the elite of African soccer."

He said the next coach should "rebuild the team, with an injection of new blood and a combative and cohesive spirit while upholding individual and collective discipline."

ASIA TO GET FIFTH CHANCE AT 2002

Asia will have an opportunity to put a fifth team in the 2002 World Cup as part of a deal approved by FIFA's executive committee.

Asia was originally set to get four spots in the tournament: two for co-hosts Japan and South Korea and two for its regional qualifying tournament.

The third-place team in the Asian qualifying tournament will play the 14th team in European qualifying, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said.

Europe has the most spots in the field, with 14 qualifiers and defending champion France.

Asia, which had threatened a boycott, had four teams at the 1998 World Cup: Japan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia advanced from the qualifying tournament and Iran, which finished fourth, won a playoff with Oceania champion Australia.

The deal must be approved by the governing bodies for European and Asian soccer.

Africa gets five berths in the tournament, while South America gets four, with its fifth-place team playing the Oceania champion for another berth. North and Central America and the Caribbean gets three spots.

FIFA postponed the decision on a site for the 2006 World Cup from next March to July 2000 and extended the deadline for final applications from July 31 to Aug. 9-10. England, Germany and South Africa are the chief contenders.

The first FIFA World Club Championship will take place from Jan. 5-14, 2000, in Brazil.

Asian football executives were quick to voice their disapproval of a compromise deal announced by FIFA's Swiss president Sepp Blatter to boost the world's largest continent's presence at the 2002 World Cup finals in Japan and Korea.

Asia has been granted a playoff slot against a

European team and if that tie is won by the Asian side, their contingent will be boosted to five. Originally only four Asian countries would have competed.

Blatter had faced a tricky balancing act between appeasing Asian demands for greater representation for the first World Cup held in that continent and not creating further strife with European governing body UEFA, frequently at loggerheads with Blatter.

UEFA's executive committee still has to confirm the decision at a board meeting in the Swiss town of Nyon in September.

Blatter immediately tried to put a positive spin on the compromise, saying: "It is the victory of solidarity as far as UEFA is concerned, it is a victory for Asia."

However, Korean FIFA executive committee member Chung

Mong-Joon did not conceal his disappointment at the new concession, saying:

"We wanted a guaranteed place. I am disappointed."

Japan and Korea, as co-hosts, each automatically qualify for a place but Asian football chiefs had been angry that only two more countries would win a slot under the original plans. The new deal gives give them a chance to have a fifth representative via a play-off.

It is less good news for Europe, originally awarded 15 places in the finals (including world champions France who qualify automatically). Now only 14 will definitely make the finals with the 15th facing a play-off.

Meanwhile, Blatter also confirmed FIFA would announce the host nation of the 2006 tournament in Luxembourg following a meeting beginning June 30 2000 instead of March next year as originally planned.

The 2002 finals, meanwhile, will be organized in exactly the same format as France 1998 with eight groups of four and 64 matches played in all



JAPAN OUT OF COPA AFTER DISAPPOINTING RUN

The Copa America quarterfinals took shape after Bolivia drew with Japan 1-1, a result that eliminated both teams from competition in South America's national team championship.

The result ensured quarterfinal berths for Mexico, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay.

Erwin Sanchez scored Bolivia's first goal in the tournament from a free kick in the 52nd minute after some slack marking from the Japanese.

Wagner Lopes scored the equalizer in the 73rd minute, punching in a penalty kick after Okano was brought down as he was about to shoot on goal with only the keeper to beat.

Saddled with offensive problems, Bolivia sidelined its captain Vladimir Soria and instead went with the three-pronged offense of Linberg Gutierrez, Jaime Moreno and Victor Hugo Antelo.

Play opened up late in game as both teams pressed forward looking for a win.

Marco Etcheverry threatened with a swerving left-footed free kick. Another free kick by

Etcheverry narrowly missed the goal.

In the closing minutes, Japan's Teruyoshi Ito avoided four Bolivian defenders before sending a right-footed shot wide of the goal.

Eight of the 12 teams advance to the next round, including the top two teams in each of the three groups, plus two third-place finishers.

Bolivia finished Group A play with two points, and Japan had one.

**More news from the Copa
America is on page 20 and 21.**

Whilst Japan are now out of the tournament, the whole experience could have been a lot different had it managed to hold on against Peru in the opener.

Japan narrowly lost their first game and since that, the team has never recovered going down 4 nil to hosts Paraguay.

The whole Copa experience is beneficial to the Japanese and it will give them both hard competition as well as a level to which they stand in the world rankings.

The Japanese team now returns home where most players will continue in the J-League.

Lineups

Bolivia: Jose Fernandez, Renny Ribera (Fernando Ochoaizpur, 88), Juan Pena, Oscar Sanchez, Ivan Castillo (Marco Etcheverry, 75), Ruben Tufino, Luis Cristaldo, Erwin Sanchez, Limberg Gutierrez, Jaime Moreno (Gustavo Quinteros, 46), Victor Antelo.

Japan: Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi, Masami Ihara, Ryuzo Morioka, Tohihiro Hattori, Yutaka Akita, Sigeyoshi Mochizuki, Teruyoshi Ito, Toshiya Fujita (Daisuki Oku, 63), Hiroshi Nanami (Atsuhiko Miura, 70), Wagner Lopes, Masayuki Okano (Shoji Jo, 63).



Lopes scored from the Penalty spot to give Japan's 1-1 draw, their only point of the Copa.

SOUTH AMERICA

PALERMO GETS AN AMAZING HAT-TRICK FOR ARGENTINA



Martin Palermo... a record that he doesn't want to be involved with

Argentina forward Martin Palermo has faced the media and has vowed to keep taking penalties just days after his unprecedented triple spot kick earned him an unwanted place in the record books.

The Boca Juniors striker's dubious hat-trick helped consign his team to a 3-0 Copa America defeat at the hands of Colombia.

Palermo told the press he would do the same in his country's final Group C match with Uruguay, if his teammates let him.

Palermo said, "I still am confident enough to take penalties. Certainly it will be decided at the time depending on whether someone else is confident enough to take it."

"If it is decided that someone else should take it, it will not be because I lack the confidence but more out of respect for my colleagues because it is a team."

Earlier, Palermo had received a pick-me-up with the news that he would not be prosecuted in the Argentinian

courts for a saucy goal celebration for his club side against Newell's Old Boys.

Judge Ana Bulacio de Rua dismissed the case for obscene exhibition against Palermo — dubbed El Loco (The Madman).

She warned, however, that the player could still be disciplined by Argentinian football officials.

Palermo and Boca teammate Juan Riquelme were reported to police after the striker dropped his shorts and apparently simulated a lewd act with his colleague after a goal in the highly-charged match.

Meanwhile, Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa indicated he would give Palermo the chance to redeem his triple penalty miss by fielding him against Uruguay Wednesday.

El Loco scores only to find Brazilian problem

Argentina's Martin Palermo redeemed himself from his triple penalty miss as he scored in a 2-0 Copa America win over Uruguay, a result that earned his team a quarter-final clash against Brazil.

Palermo claimed his third goal of the cup to become joint topscorer in the tournament and consign his nightmare, when he took three penalties and missed them all in a 3-0 defeat by Colombia, to Copa America history.

Both teams had qualified for the last eight before kick-off thanks to Colombia's earlier 2-1 win over Ecuador, in which veteran goalkeeper Rene Higuita made a subdued return to international competition.

Argentina would have avoided group B winners Brazil if they had drawn but that thought clearly never crossed their minds and they attacked from the outset.

Cristian Gonzalez gave them a second-minute lead with a powerful drive following an indirect free kick.

But all eyes were on Palermo, who had said he would avenge his misfortune against Uruguay and whose name was chanted by the large contingent of Argentine fans who crossed the border before the kickoff.

The Boca Juniors marksman, began the tournament by scoring twice against Ecuador, quickly got involved in the game, though his enthusiasm got the better of him when he was booked for diving midway through the first half.

He was rewarded for his persistence in the 57th minute when a cross from Juan Riquelme landed at his feet and he blasted the ball emphatically into the roof of the net.

Shortly afterwards, he was substituted after suffering an elbow in the face but coach Marcelo Bielsa said Palermo was certain to face Brazil.

Uruguay's defeat relegated them to third place in the group and a quarter-final against hosts Paraguay.

Colombia, who went through when they beat Argentina, rested eight first choice players and gave Higuita, who has played only one friendly for his country since the 1995 Copa America, his first competitive international appearance for four years.

But Higuita, who made his name with an unorthodox style of goalkeeping that often bordered on sheer recklessness, was a different man.

He ditched his old habit of dribbling opposing forwards in his own penalty area and never once rushed halfway up the field to intercept a pass.

Instead, he stayed in his own area, something which would have been unheard of a few years ago.

He misjudged several crosses and often looked insecure but made two important saves early in the match as Ecuador, who needed to win to maintain any hope of qualifying, took early control.

Two goals in three minutes by Neider Morantes and Hamilton Ricard, however, sank Ecuador, who replied with a 50th-minute strike by Argentine-born Ariel Graziani, the first goal Colombia have conceded in the tournament.

Colombia topped the group with nine points, followed by Argentina on six, Uruguay on three and Ecuador none. Uruguay qualified as the second-best of the third-placed teams, Bolivia having ended third in group A with only two points.

Chile finished the first round as the best third-placed team and will play Colombia, while Mexico meet Peru in the other match.

FIRST ROUND OF COPA COMPLETED

Mexican, Blanco scored twice to send Mexico into the quarter-finals of the Copa America, then got himself suspended by being sent off.

His goals also sent Chile into the last eight before they started their match against Brazil, which they lost 1-0 to a Ronaldo penalty.

The game was suspended when a dense fog descended on the February 3 stadium in Ciudad del Este with Brazil, who had also qualified beforehand, leading 1-0, but match observer Alvaro Castro said the result would stand.

Mexico comfortably secured their place with a 3-1 win over the weakest team in the competition, Blanco scoring twice and setting up the other as they raced to a 3-0 half-time lead.

Venezuela pulled one goal back, their first and only one of the tournament, when Gabriel Urdaneta scored a well-taken effort in the 73rd minute.

Despite a late Venezuelan revival, Mexico were still cruising home when Blanco elbowed an opponent in the face in the 85th minute and was sent off.

He will miss the quarter-final, which will be against Peru if Mexico keep second place in the group, but could face a heavier sanction.

Venezuela, who finished with no points and a goal difference of minus 13, confirmed their reputation as the weakest soccer nation on the continent and the only nation where soccer is not the number

one national sport, compared to its regional rivals.

The team had arrived with hopes of a better performance after good results in warm-up matches, but their confidence was shattered by a 7-0 defeat against Brazil in their first game.

Brazil were leading 1-0 through a penalty by Ronaldo, his third goal of the competition, when play was suspended in the 85th minute. The fog came down quickly, causing conditions to go from



Mexican star, Blanco put his side into the next round of the Copa only to see red meaning he will miss the next game.

clear to something approaching a pea soup in the space of five minutes.

The match would have finished normally if it had kicked off on time but, as is common in South America and especially matches where Brazil are involved, it began ten minutes late.

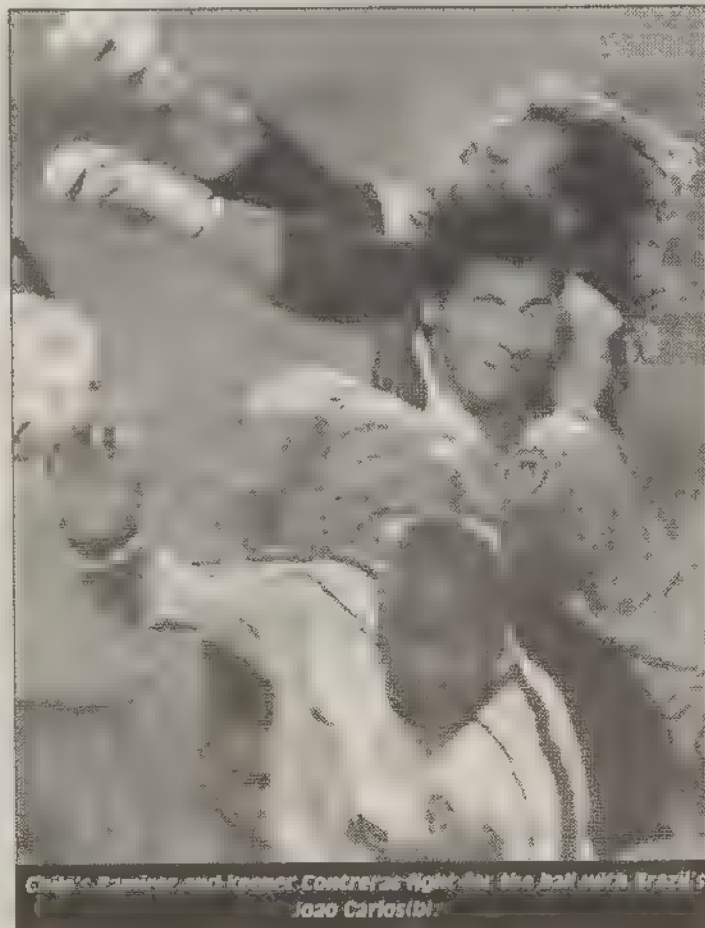
Brazil finished top of the group with a maximum nine points, followed by Mexico on six and Chile on three.

Chile could conceivably have overtaken Mexico by scoring twice and winning, but that seemed unlikely with Brazil dominating the match and the decision to allow the result to stand suited everyone.

Chile had kept up the competition's amazing record of missed penalties as they missed a chance for an equaliser.

Pedro Gonzalez was the culprit, his weak shot in the 75th minute being easily saved by Brazil goalkeeper Dida. It was the fifth of eight penalties in the competition to be missed.

Three of the misses were by Argentina's Martin Palermo, all in the 3-0 loss to Argentina.

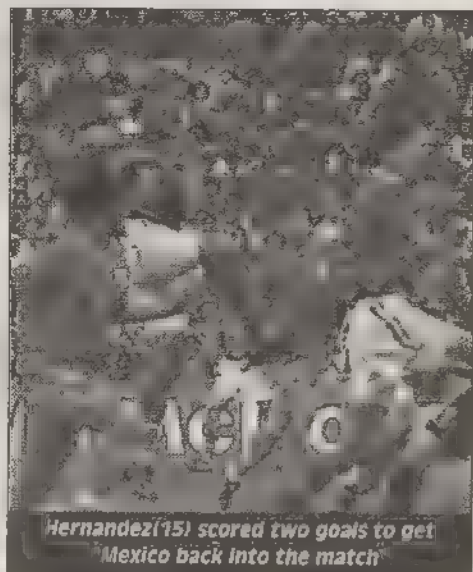


Goalkeeper Contreras fought for the ball with Brazil's Joao Carlos.

SOUTH AMERICA

MEXICO THROUGH AFTER PENALTIES

MEXICO 3
PERU 3
Mexico wins 4-2 on penalties



Hernandez (15) scored two goals to get Mexico back into the match

Mexico beat Peru 4-2 on penalties to reach the Copa America semifinals after the teams had shared six goals in a dramatic match.

Mexico's Gerardo Torrado scored a spectacular 88th-minute equaliser to force a 3-3 draw in the quarter-final after Peru's goalkeeper, Oscar Ibanez had made three world-class saves to keep his team in front.

Peru raced into a two-goal lead in 15 minutes, Luis Hernandez levelled for Mexico with two goals in a four-minute spell before Nolberto Solano put Peru back in front in the 41st minute.

Mexico were without Raul Lara and Paulo Cesar Chavez, banned from the rest of the tournament after failing doping tests following the first round match with Brazil, and key striker Cuauhtemoc Blanco, sent off against Venezuela.

The match was poorly refereed by Brazil's Wilson Souza de Mendonca, who awarded Mexico a hugely controversial penalty and allowed several nasty fouls to go unpunished, in particular an off-the-ball elbow in the face by Mexico's Rafael Marquez.

Palacios put Peru ahead with one of the best goals of the tournament.

Collecting the ball 30 metres from goal, Palacios turned his marker and then dribbling through the centre

of the Mexican defence before scoring with a left-foot shot which left the keeper no chance.

Ten minutes later Jose Pereda broke clear of the defence and delicately chipped the ball over the advancing Jorge Campos for the second.

Peru relaxed and Hernandez headed Mexico back into the game with a header from a Ramon Ramirez cross.

Four minutes later he equalised with a penalty, although no contact appeared to have been made when Miguel Zepeda crashed to the ground.

Solano restored Peru's lead four minutes before the break with a low, powerful shot but again they relaxed and handed Mexico the initiative.

Ibanez seemed to have taken them through, his three saves including a miraculous effort in the 84th minute when he turned over a close range header by Hernandez.

But Torrado scored two minutes from the end with a fulminating 25-metre volley after a poor clearance by the Peruvian defence.

Extra time is not played and the game went straight to penalties which Mexico won 4-2.

Mexico goalkeeper Jorge Campos, sporting a luminous blue and green polka dot outfit, did not have to make a save against Jose Soto and Juan Reynoso, who both fired wildly over the crossbar.

HOSTS HUMBLLED ON PENALTIES

URUGUAY 1
PARAGUAY 1
Uruguay wins 5-3 on penalties

Hosts Paraguay went crashing out of the Copa America, losing on penalties to a Uruguay team that decided against bringing their top players to the tournament.

Miguel Benitez, who had given Paraguay the lead in a quarter-final which ended 1-1, missed the crucial kick as Uruguay won 5-3 in the shootout, to the despair of a 45,000 crowd at the Defensores de la Chaco stadium.

Paraguay had appeared set for an easy win when Benitez fired them ahead early on with his third goal of the tournament.

But they they surprisingly sat back after that, lost control of the game and conceded a 65th minute equalizer to Marcelo Zalayeta, the first and only goal scored against them in the tournament.

"We haven't lost a game in the tournament, we have conceded one goal in four matches and we have succeeded in bringing some young players into the team," said Paraguay coach Ever Almeida. "But this is a painful defeat."

Paraguay captain and defender Carlos Gamarra had a superb game, his combination of perfectly timed tackles, precise passes and ball skills showing once again that he is one of the world's best players.

But his teammates had a nightmare match, with Benitez and his striking partner Roque Santa Cruz both struggling to get involved and Roberto Acuna uninspired in midfield.

Paraguay began confidently and took a 15th minute lead. Denis Caniza found Benitez on the edge of the area, Benitez cleverly sidestepped an opponent and scored with a well-placed shot into the far corner.

After that, Paraguay left Benitez alone against the

Uruguayan defenders as they attempted to play a counter-attacking game. But they simply handed the initiative to their opponents, who were close to an equalizer before half-time when Alejandro Lembo headed narrowly wide.

Zalayeta leveled in the 65th minute with his third goal of the Cup, shooting home from outside the penalty area when the ball rebounded to him in a move that began with a brilliant run by Walter Coelho.

By this time, Uruguay were in control and only a world class save by Ricardo Tavaralli, who saved with his legs from an unsighted position, stopped Zalayeta from deciding the match without the help of penalties.



Benitez and Santa Cruz were sad about the result for Paraguay.

Argentina goes penalty crazy

BRAZIL 2
ARGENTINA 1

Brazil beat Argentina 2-1 in their Copa America quarter-final after their bitter opponents missed yet another penalty.

Argentina captain Roberto Ayala saw his kick saved by Brazilian goalkeeper Dida in the 78th minute, throwing away a golden chance to level the score at 2-2.

Ayala took the kick after striker Martin Palermo, the first choice penalty taker, missed three penalties in the first round match against Colombia.

Ronaldo scored the winner early in the second half with his fourth goal of the tournament as Brazil came from behind to beat their bitter rivals.

Juan Pablo Sorin had given Argentina an early lead with Rivaldo equalizing from a free kick before half-time.

Left-back Sorin scored in the 11th minute with a left foot shot from outside the penalty area which took a deflection off a defender into the goal.

Brazil struggled to find their rhythm with Rivaldo ineffective in midfield and Ronaldo fighting a losing battle up front against excellent Argentine defending.

The game was edgy with crunching tackles on both sides, but with

so many players play-acting, referee Eduardo Gamboa had an impossible task telling real fouls from dives.

In the 33rd minute, Rivaldo made his mark on the game when he equalized as he floated a free kick over the Argentine wall from the edge of the area and into the top corner of the goal.

Martin Palermo had a double chance for Argentina on the stroke of half-time, after being set up by Javier Zanetti, but his first effort was saved by Dida and the second went into the side-netting.



Ronaldo scored the winner against Argentina.

Ronaldo fired Brazil in front three minutes after the interval with a low shot from outside the area after a neat passing move involving Emerson Ferreira and Ze Roberto.

Argentina then had three dangerous free kicks on the edge of the Brazilian area. Juan Riquelme took them all, his first two were saved and his third effort flew over the crossbar. Their only real chance after that came from the penalty, but even that was wasted.

Veteran striker Ivan Zamorano sent Chile into the Copa America semifinals by scoring a solo goal to give them a shock 3-2 win over Colombia.

Zamorano's goal came after defender Pedro Reyes had twice headed Chile back on level terms after goals by Jorge Bolano and Victor Bonilla put Colombia ahead.

Colombia, trained by former chemical engineer Javier Alvarez, had emerged as one of the competition's favourites after winning all three first round games, their results including a 3-0 hammering of Argentina.

Their neat passing game, with more punch and bite than in the past, had also made them one of the competition's most entertaining sides.

Chile, who face Uruguay, had qualified as one of the best third-placed teams after winning only one game in their group and had been criticised back home for their unprofessional displays.

They were without striker Marcelo Salas, serving the second game of a two-match suspension.

SEMI-FINAL DRAW

BRAZIL V MEXICO
CHILE V URUGUAY

Bolano gave Colombia an eighth minute lead with a long-range shot but Chile fought back well and Zamorano missed an excellent chance to equalise six minutes later when he shot weakly at goalkeeper Miguel Calero.

Reyes made it 1-1 in the 25th minute

when he rose unmarked to head in a corner taken by Jose Luis Sierra.

Colombia regained the lead with only their second serious chance in the 35th minute, Hamilton Ricard splitting the Chilean defence with a pass to Victor Bonilla, who slotted the ball past Marcelo Ramirez.

Reyes equalised for the second time five minutes into the second half, again escaping the Colombian marking to head home at the far post from a free kick.

Colombia were rattled but worse was to come in the 64th minute. Miguel Ramirez sent a long pass out of defence and found Zamorano, who ran past two defenders and Calero to score the winner with his second goal of the tournament.



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WOMENS WORLD CUP

HAMM TO PLAY IN MLS?

Some of her fans would like to see Women's World Cup star Mia Hamm sign with a Major League Soccer team.

While the idea has been kicked around more than once over the past few weeks, Hamm said don't expect her or any other female soccer player to be kicking a ball in any all-male MLS game anytime soon.



Hamm, the world's all-time leading women's goal scorer, said it would be hard to compete with the likes of fellow American Joe-Max

Moore or Bolivian striker Marco Etcheverry.

"It will never happen," she told reporters. "I'll get wiped off the field. It's flattering but I couldn't compete at that level with those guys."

MLS commissioner Doug Logan said he is unaware of any rules barring women from playing in the league, but didn't think much of the idea.

"Any talk of Mia Hamm or any other women's national team star playing a half with an MLS team would be insulting to the women's game," Logan said.

Nevertheless, the idea of women joining all-male leagues is nothing new.

In 1979, decades before the formation of the WNBA, Ann Meyers joined the Indiana Pacers training camp. In 1992 Marion Rheume played a few exhibition games in goal for the expansion Tampa Bay Lightning.

Both events did little to help women's sports and were largely viewed as publicity stunts. In fact, neither woman ever made the team or played in a league game.



Soccer is also not new at signing women. In the 1970's, the Chicago Sting of the North American Soccer League chose a Playboy playmate, who had played soccer in college, as a draft choice. While the move generated some attention, she never played a single minute.

"Any attempt to create a public relations event to demean where (the women's game) has come will not happen with MLS," said Logan.

But talk of Hamm joining the MLS has reopened the discussion of starting a professional women's league. If the success of the World Cup serves as any indicator, then a pro league is not too far down the road.

"I think it's coming," said U.S. coach Tony DiCicco. "We have to keep everything in perspective. In 1950 nobody went to an NBA game. Fifty years later they're global."

"Of course, the women's professional league has to start someplace. I think women's athletics is here to stay and I think women's soccer can be a great entertainment product."

US GETS REVENGE FOR 1994 LOSS TO BRAZIL

Doing what the U.S. men couldn't five years ago didn't seem to have much impact on the American women.

On July 4, 1994 in Stanford Stadium, Brazil edged the United States 1-0 in the men's World Cup. The Brazilians went on to win their fourth title, the most of any nation.

After their 2-0 victory over the Brazilian women, the Americans didn't claim vengeance.

"We're very proud of our men's team and what they did when the World Cup was here," Carla Overbeck said. "I think what the men did in 1994 was a great start for our team."

Added U.S. coach Tony DiCicco: "We are the men's biggest fans, and they are our biggest fans."

We are working together to grow soccer in the United States."

Of course, the Americans hope their fate is the same as was Brazil's after the last July 4 match.

Michelle Akers must have felt as if she was playing in an American football game.

Akers, who scored on a penalty kick in the United States' 2-0 victory over Brazil in the Women's World Cup semi-finals was battered for much of the game.

In no particular order, she took a foot to the face, was kicked in the hand, knocked in the ribs and "had my bell rung."

But Akers, at 33 the oldest U.S. player, considers herself a survivor. That's exactly what she needed to be against Brazil.

"You get to the point where you are so beat up, another little ding is not going to stop you," said Akers, who has chronic fatigue syndrome and has her playing time strictly monitored by the coaching staff. "I've learned how to stuff it."

Oddly, it was not a foul against Akers that brought the penalty kick in the 80th minute. It was star forward Mia Hamm who was fouled in the area.

When Akers saw the foul she said, "Yeah, baby, let

me at it." Then she sent the ball into the right side of the net to clinch the victory.

U.S. defender Kate Sobrero vowed to dye her hair red and blue if teammate Joy Fawcett scored a goal in the Women's World Cup. When Fawcett put in a header against Germany in the quarterfinals, Sobrero was put on the spot.

She came through, coloring her hair auburn with streaks of blue. It wasn't very becoming, but Sobrero and her teammates got a kick out of it.

"I made a promise and I had to live up to it," she said.

It could have been worse. Sobrero said she would shave off her hair if co-captain Carla Overbeck scores.

Brazil's women were incensed by the work of referee Katrina Elovirta of Finland. They felt she let the match get too physical, and the penalty kick awarded to the United States in the 80th minute came on a very questionable call.

Mia Hamm was chasing Michelle Akers' long header in the Brazil penalty area when she bumped with Brazilian captain Elaine and went down.

Replays showed the contact was incidental, but the penalty was awarded and Akers put it home, clinching the 2-0 semifinal victory.

Elaine was fortunate not to draw a yellow card for her actions after the call. She picked up the ball and held it over her head as she waved to the fans, sarcastically encouraging them to cheer. Then she clapped her hands in the air and continued egging on the crowd.

None of the Brazilian players were made available to comment after the game. But coach Wilson de Oliveira expressed his disenchantment with the officiating.

"There was no necessity for the refereeing being that bad," he said. "The United States is a great team and they needed no help."

"There were many fouls she did not punish and let them go."

US EXPECTING 90,000 TO FINALE AS TV RATINGS SET NEW RECORDS

A sellout crowd of 90,000, including President Clinton, will watch the United States and China play for the Women's World Cup title in the historic Rose Bowl.

"I couldn't set it up any better," forward Cindy Parlow said.

The pageantry, the raucous fans and the world's two best teams make the final at the Pasadena stadium a showcase event for women's soccer.

"Everybody's talked about this World Cup as history in the making and it's because of all those things," forward Tiffany Milbrett said.

"The point I like is there were 80,000 people watching the men's World Cup final."

There's going to 90,000 watching the women's World Cup final," she said.

"All those things knock the boots off everybody because they weren't expecting it."

In the 1994 men's World Cup final, Brazil defeated Italy on penalty kicks after regulation ended in a scoreless draw in front of a sellout crowd at the Rose Bowl.

"I still remember the fabulous atmosphere, but the game still lagged behind," FIFA communications director Keith Cooper said.

"You ask most people what they thought of the final of 1994, they'll say disappointed because there were no goals and they finished on penalties. The game's got to be good."

Parlow predicted a low-scoring final because the United States and China play well-organized defense. But that doesn't mean viewers will be yawning.

"Both teams love to attack, love to take chances

going forward and that's very exciting for the fans," she said. "Both teams will attack at all costs."

United States coach Tony DiCicco said a lot of goals aren't necessary to create a memorable game.

"As long as there's attacking soccer and teams trying to score goals and plays by the goalkeepers and near-misses, it doesn't have to be a lot of goals," he said.

"It's going to be two teams that are fit, that are ready, that are going to go out to win this game and they're not going to hold anything back," he said. "They're going to play attractive soccer."

Because many of the Americans and Chinese have worked years to reach this level, Milbrett said, "We don't have to make sure we're reminding each other to play high level, it's just going to be that."

"At the end of the day, it always comes down to the game," FIFA's Cooper said. "I'm pretty confident that Saturday's going to be a good day."

On a day devoted to barbecues and patriotism, ESPN managed to set a record for soccer coverage when the U.S. women defeated Brazil on the Fourth of July.

The game was watched in 2.9 million homes. It was the largest number of households to watch a soccer telecast on the cable network.

The viewership topped the 1994 men's World Cup game between the United States and Colombia. That game attracted 2.7 million homes and had a 4.3 cable rating.

The women's 2-0 victory over Brazil posted a 3.8 cable rating.

The victory nearly doubled the 2.19 mark that the women registered in their quarterfinal win over Germany, which was also on ESPN.

The semi-final boosted ESPN's overall Women's World Cup ratings to a 1.5 in seven telecasts, with an average of 1.1 million households. ESPN2 has a 0.5 mark in 23 telecasts.

The 1998 men's World Cup had a 0.94 rating in 27 ESPN telecasts and a 0.5 mark on 23 games shown on ESPN2.

However, many games were shown at poor times for American viewers because the tournament was in France. Also, the United States finished last in the 32-team tournament.

ESPN averaged a 1.6 rating in 34 telecasts for the 1994 men's World Cup, which was held in the United States. However, the only U.S. game broadcast by the cable network was the game against Colombia.

The American women's tournament-opening win over Denmark last month was watched in 1.7 million homes on ABC. Their victory against Nigeria was seen in 1.4 million homes on ESPN.

The United States advanced to the quarterfinals last Sunday with a win against North Korea. The game received a 1.96 rating and was seen in 1.3 million homes. It was the highest rating for any soccer match on ESPN2.

The rating is the percentage of TV households in the United States tuned to a program. Each cable point represents 766,000 homes on ESPN and 644,000 homes on ESPN2.

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WOMENS WORLD CUP

USA ARE THE WORLD CHAMPIONS

Penalty thriller as USA go all the way

USA 0
CHINA 0

USA wins 5-4 on penalties

Rose Bowl, Pasadena

Crowd: 90,185

The United States has won its second Women's World Cup title, defeating China 5-4 in a penalty shootout after the two sides battled through regulation and a tension-filled extra time without scoring a goal.

Brandi Chastain converted the final U.S. penalty kick, putting her shot into the top right corner of the Chinese goal, to send her teammates and a sold out crowd of more than 90,000 at the Rose Bowl into a frenzy as Chastain dropped to her knees and took off her top.

beat China 5-4 in the shootout following a 0-0 draw.

"This was the greatest moment of my life on the soccer field, and I just lost my mind."

Chastain's shot won the Women's World Cup for the team that captured all of America with its style and grace and now has conquered the world.

"I didn't hear any noise, I didn't get caught up looking at Gao Hong," Chastain said, referring to China's goalkeeper "I just put it home."

"I felt very confident. My team trusted me and I was just waiting for the chance to just step up there and take it," Chastain said of the historic kick.

Chastain's chance became the potential game-winner after U.S. goalkeeper Briana Scurry had stopped a shot by China's Liu Ying.

Carla Overbeck, Joy Fawcett, Kristine Lilly and Mia Hamm all made good on their opportunities for the United States, which also beat China in the 1996 Olympic gold medal game and won the inaugural

and relieved U.S. coach, Tony DiCicco.

"This is a team that just fought and fought and fought. There were so many things they had to overcome to win this tournament, most of all an outstanding China team."

DiCicco added, "America should be very proud of them, they're quite a group of young ladies."

This marked the second time in five years that a World Cup final at the Rose Bowl was decided by penalty kicks after a scoreless draw.

In 1994 in the men's World Cup Final deciding match, Brazil captured its fourth World Cup by outlasting Italy in penalty kicks.

President Bill Clinton congratulated the victorious U.S. women's soccer team for winning what he said was "the most exciting sports event I believe I have ever seen."

Minutes earlier, the U.S. squad won their second World Cup title after beating the Chinese women's team 5-4 in penalty kicks. The two teams battled to a scoreless draw in regulation and overtime.

In 1991, the U.S. team won the inaugural World Cup in Beijing.

Clinton, surrounded by U.S. team members clad in yellow T-shirts proclaiming their new status as world champions, said he was impressed by the quality of play and proud of both squads.

"I was so very proud of you," Clinton said. "We learned a lot today about soccer, women athletes, about courage and endurance and about Chinese sportsmanship."

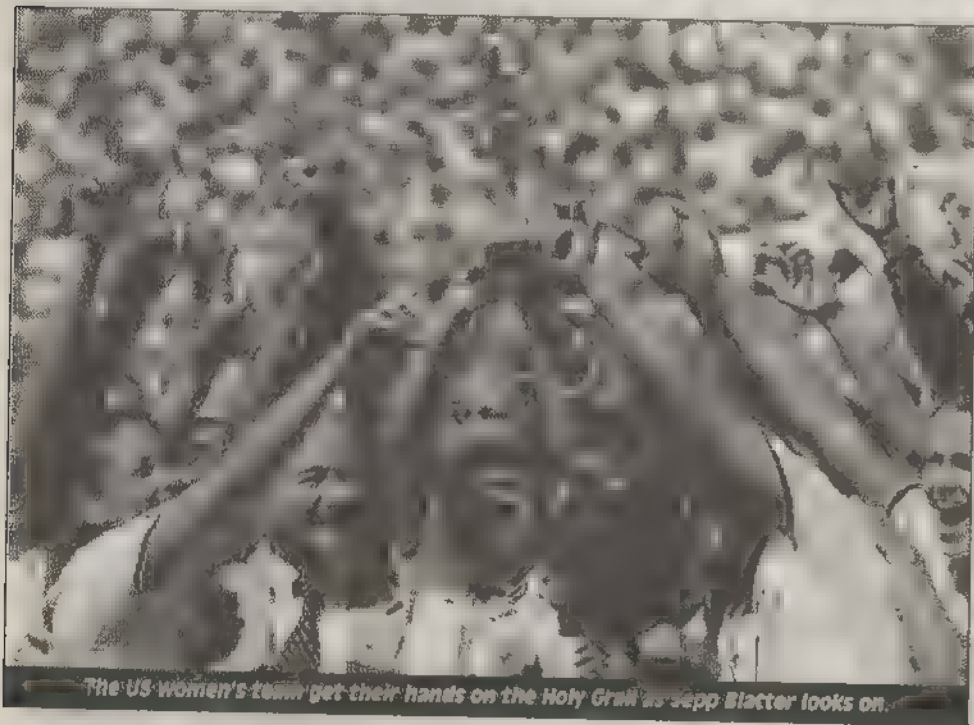
Clinton first consoled the losing Chinese side in their locker room, telling the team they had played a "a magnificent game. You were magnificent. You will win many more games."

While posing for a group photo with the disappointed Chinese players, Clinton told reporters, "We were very honored to have them in the United States."

Clinton and White House officials are in the midst of an effort to soothe the feelings of officials in Beijing and people across China for the accidental



Brandi Chastain was overwhelmed with the victory after scoring the winning penalty kick.



The U.S. women's team get their hands on the Holy Grail as Sepp Blatter looks on.

But after scoring the championship-winning goal against China with a penalty kick, she ripped off her jersey, swung it over her head and waited to be mobbed by her jubilant teammates.

"I lost my mind," she said after the Americans

Women's World Cup in China in 1991.

Xie Huilin, Qiu Haiyan, Zhang Ouying and Sun Wen all beat Scurry with their penalty kicks.

"Getting to penalty kicks was no easy task and Briana came up big and all five (shots) were made and that's the sign of a champion," said a delighted

bombing of the People's Republic of China embassy in Belgrade during the recent NATO air campaign against Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Chinese officials have refused to accept U.S. apologies, saying the attack, which killed three embassy staffers, was intentional.

To the happy American squad, Clinton said: "I cannot thank you enough for the gift you have given to the United States."

Joining Clinton in the winners' locker room were Arsenio Hall, the former U.S. television talk show host who led a round of cheering, actor Edward James Olmos and political consultant James Carville.

Carville, Olmos and Christiaan Corry, the husband of U.S. star Mia Hamm, watched the game with Clinton in a private box.

BRAZIL 0
NORWAY 0

Brazil wins 5-4 on penalties

Rose Bowl, Pasadena

Brazil claimed third place at the Women's World Cup by beating Norway 5-4 in a penalty shootout after the two sides played to a scoreless draw in regulation.

Midfielder Formiga converted the game winning kick, placing the ball to the lower left of Norwegian goalkeeper Bente Nordby after Ann Kristin Aarones missed her attempt.

Brazil's third-place finish was a huge improvement over their showing in the first two Women's World Cups when the traditional men's soccer power ended up ninth each time.

Cidinha, Kátia da Silva, Maicon and Elaine also converted their penalty kicks after Pretinha fired wide right in Brazil's first attempt of the shootout.

For Norway, Hege Riise, Linda Medalen, Brit Sandaune and Solveig Gulbrandsen made good on their shootout chances, beating goalkeeper Maravilha.

BRAZIL SEALS THIRD PLACE

Midfielder Seilje Jorgensen missed her attempt, which hit the outside of the left post.

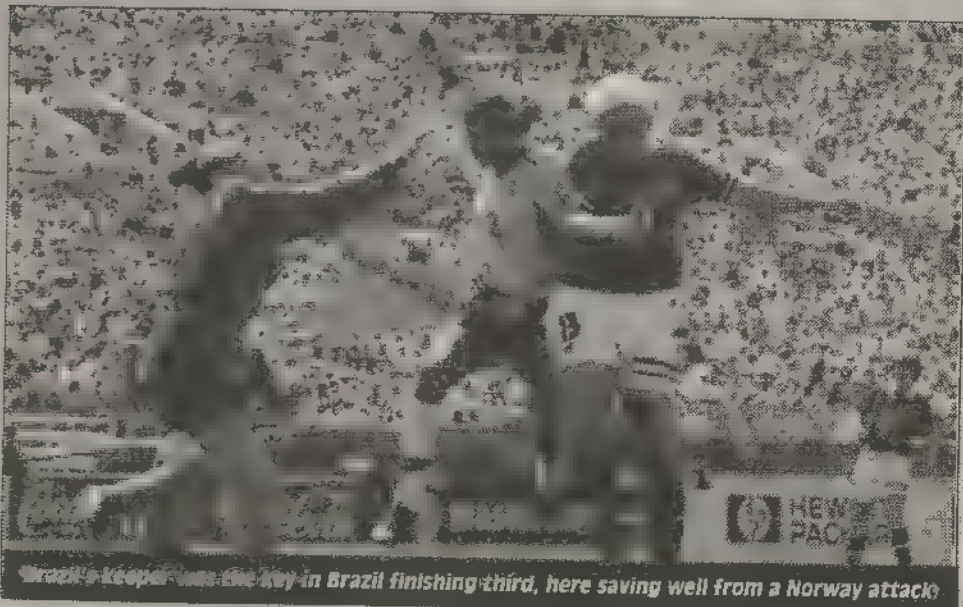
The Norwegians dominated the first half while Brazil clearly held the advantage in the second half.

Norway did have one golden opportunity in the 71st minute, when an unmarked Aarones took a pass right in front of the Brazil goal. But she flubbed her shot from point blank range.

That led to a breakaway at the other end of the pitch, but Nordby came out and smothered Pretinha's shot from 12 meters.

Sissi forced Nordby out of the net on the left side of the penalty area in the 84th minute, but her shot from a severe angle just missed the far post.

Instead of using the traditional extra time to determine a winner after 90 minutes without a goal, the match went directly to penalty kicks because the championship match had to start on time due to American television commitments.



Brazil's keeper was the key in Brazil finishing third, here saving well from a Norway attack.

ITALY

Lazio buys up BIG GUNS for title charge

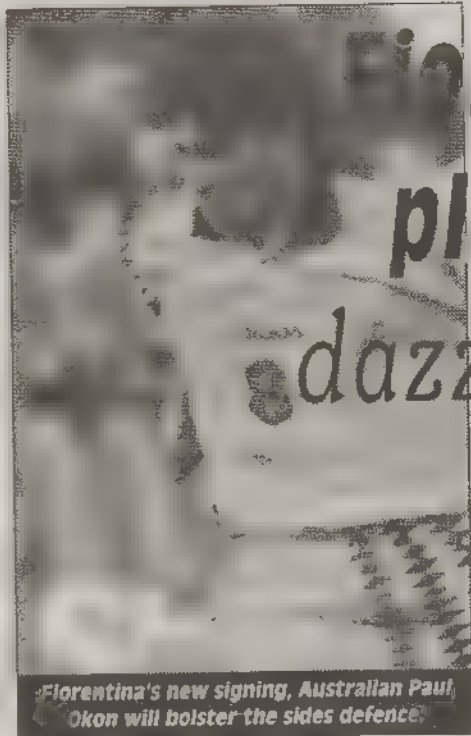
Andersson arrives from Bologna, where he spent three seasons. Now in the twilight of his career, he will be hard pressed to secure a first team place in a forward line

The 20-year-old, valued at as much as 28 million pounds (\$44.60 million), would be an ideal replacement for Italy's Christian Vieri, who left Lazio for Inter Milan.

However, the latest twist is that Anelka has a legal team working on the case and that they are prepared to ask the French Football Federation for help in freeing the Versailles ace from a contract which runs until 2003.



Diego Simeone is hoping to win at Lazio after being traded from Inter for Christian Vieri.



Florentina's new signing, Australian Paul Okon will bolster the sides defence.

Fiorentina to play razzle dazzle football

They start the friendly season by meeting Rapid Bucharest on July 21 at Lecco, on nearby Lake Como, before heading for New York and a friendly tournament with Aston Villa, Ajax and Panathinaikos.

Lippi says Inter were built to be Champions

And the coffers should be reopened for Domoraud and Blanc's fellow countryman Vincent Candela of AS Roma in a French-styled defence.

"Players are right to try and get the contract of their lives, but that's got nothing to do with their ability or

"I'm telling my players, 'I don't know how a footballer can feel important if he doesn't win a major trophy; if the championships, the cups and the Golden Ball awards are all being won by other people'.

NAPOLI TO BE SOLD OFF

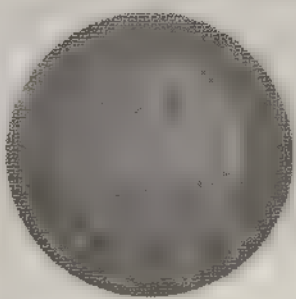
November

Inter suffered last year as they stumbled out of the top five in the league and their bad season was made worst when city rivals, AC Milan won the league.

EUROPE

Soccer Weekly

EUROPE TO GIVE WORLD CLUB CUP THE FLICK



UEF A president Lennart Johansson said that Europe may no longer be prepared to take part in the new world team cup competition if it lasts any longer than one season.

Johansson said the governing body of European football had reluctantly agreed to take part in the new FIFA competition, being staged in Brazil in January, on a one-off basis but could not guarantee the participation of a European club in any subsequent tournament.

As the dispute continued into the controversial decision by English champions Manchester United to forfeit playing in the English FA Cup in order to compete in the eight-team tournament in Brazil, Johansson said "We have to listen to our clubs."

"For this once, we are going to Brazil out of loyalty to the football family but we cannot guarantee participation in the future."

Johansson, in Los Angeles for a week-long series of FIFA meetings, said he sympathized with the position of Manchester United but denied that UEFA had already lined up Champions Cup runners-up Bayern Munich instead of United because it would have furthered the claims of Germany to be awarded the 2006 World Cup.

UEFA is officially backing Germany over England for

the World Cup bid although the European vote is likely to be split come next year.

"I am extremely disappointed that United are not taking part in the FA Cup," Johansson said. "We in UEFA were afraid something like this would happen because of the overcrowded calendar. But we did not favour Bayern."

"I don't believe that the participation of either team would have had an effect on the World Cup vote. What I do think is that we cannot, in future, force our clubs to take part, just as we oppose the idea of a World Cup every two years."

Johansson also defended the decision of Europe to give up half a place to Asia in the next World Cup Finals in 2002.

The UEFA executive committee are expected to rubber-stamp a proposal to stage a playoff with Asia for the last qualifying spot at the 2002 finals, being staged jointly by Korea and Japan.

"The Asians thought they were being badly treated by having the same number of teams as at France 98 so we have tried to help. Co-hosting is a situation that has not existed before and there is no agreement as to what happens after that," Johansson said.

Real ready for Bosnian attack

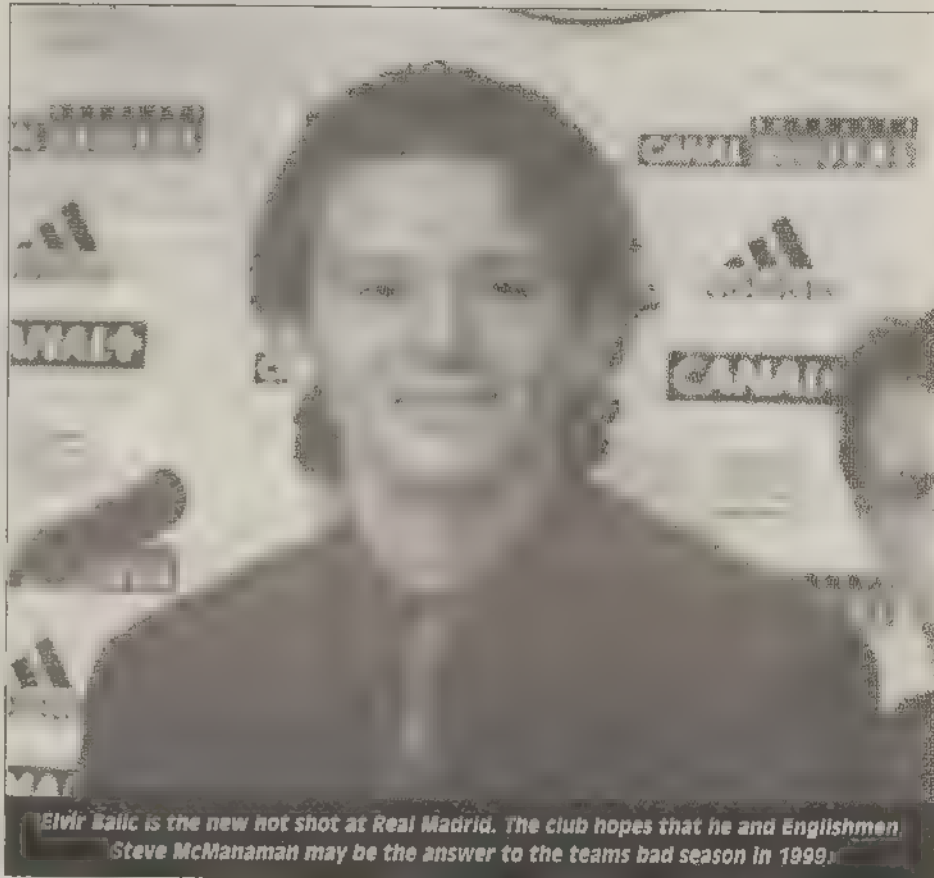
Spain's Real Madrid has completed the signing of Bosnian striker Elvir Balic from Turkey's Fenerbahce for 20 million dollars, Turkish media revealed.

Real president Lorenzo Sanz and Fenerbahce counterpart Aziz Yildirim thrashed out a deal under which the Spaniards will stump up a 20 million dollar transfer fee.

and Spaniards Michel Salgado and Ivan Helguera.

Salgado, a \$12.30 million acquisition from Celta Vigo, was previously the record buy but, as an established Spanish international, few eyebrows were raised at the size of the fee.

The amount of money invested in the little known Balic is far more of a gamble for Real, and in particular their coach, John Toshack.



GOMEZ GIVEN MALLORCA POST.

New Mallorca coach, Mario Gomez has arrived on the Balearic island to begin what he described as the toughest challenge of his career.

The 46-year-old Argentine has the unenviable task of following Hector Cuper the Valencia bound coach who in two seasons transformed Mallorca from a relegation favorite to championship contender and European finalist.

Gomez, like Cuper is coming into the job after a spell as boss of Argentine club Lanus and recognizes that his predecessor will be a tough act to follow.

Mallorca finished fourth in the league, earning a place in the qualifying round of the Champions League, lost to Lazio in the Cup Winners Cup final and won the Spanish supercup.

But he is confident he can find success with a similar formula.

"What Hector Cuper has achieved here has been spectacular," said Gomez, who played alongside Cuper

at Ferro Carril Oeste in the 1980s.

"But a new era starts now at Mallorca and I'll be looking to continue the success story."

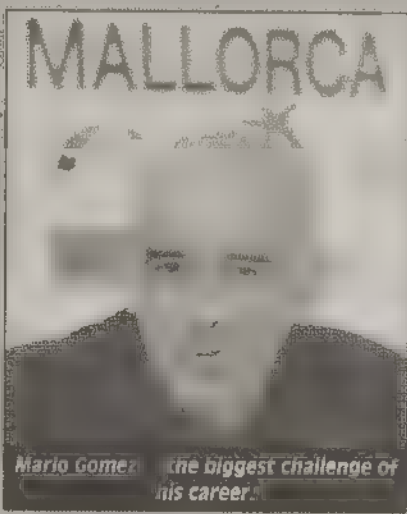
Gomez is pinning his reputation — and his hopes of emulating Cuper — on three new signings from Argentina.

The two biggest names leaving over the close season, goalkeeper Carlos Roa and striker Dani Garcia, are replaced by German Burgos and Jorge Quinteros respectively.

Fullback Juan Jose Serrizuela, the third new signing, will help shore up a rock solid defence that will be missing Marcelino Elena, the Spanish international center back who is on his way to Newcastle United.

"These are three great players," Gomez said. "They come on my personal recommendation and I'm convinced they will give a great deal to this club."

"As long as there are no other players leaving the club, we will not need to bring in anyone else."



Mario Gomez: the biggest challenge of his career.

EFFENBERG TO LEAD BAYERN

Stefan Effenberg will captain Bayern Munich next season, taking over from the departed Thomas Helmer, the German champions said.

The row at the Bavarians' training camp over the future of his fellow midfielder Mario Basler rumbled on, with the 30-year-old slamming manager Uli Hoeness for saying he was not worth as much as Effenberg, threatening to quit.

"I want to be treated like Effenberg," said Basler, who has so far turned down the new contract

Bayern offered and is holding out for a deal closer to what the new captain earns.

"I could go right now to England or Spain or elsewhere in the Bundesliga."

But coach Ottmar Hitzfeld retorted that there would be no new offer. "It's up to Mario to make the next move," he said.

Bayern are still trying to pick themselves up after their dreams of a historic treble were shattered when they lost to a last-gasp Manchester United rally in the European Cup

final and then handed the German Cup to Werder Bremen on penalties.

They have since been beset by a renewed outbreak of the bickering that earned them the nickname "FC Hollywood."

Goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, who was named vice-captain on criticised 38-year-old libero Lothar Matthaus over his plans to quit the club in mid-season next year to head to the United States and the New York-New Jersey MetroStars.

Balic will himself receive 15 million dollars over five seasons — making the deal a Turkish record.

Real's Welsh coach John Toshack knows Balic well from his time as coach of Besiktas.

And the new Real Madrid forward is confident he can live with the pressure of being the most expensive player in the history of the club which has won the European Cup seven times.

The 24-year-old Bosnian international, who signed a club record \$15 million from Turkish club Fenerbahce, was presented as a Real Madrid player after signing a six-year contract.

And Balic, who scored 18 league goals for Fenerbahce last season following a \$12.8 million move from Bursaspor, is sure he can triumph at Real, despite the record price tag.

"The truth is I'm not going to be under any pressure," he told a news conference at the Bernabeu stadium.

"The Spanish league will be a lot more difficult than in Turkey but I'll have great players around me. That will make life a lot easier."

"You could also say that I've been here before. I was supposedly under a lot of pressure after my move to Fenerbahce but I ended up impressing everyone, including the press."

Real president Lorenzo Sanz, who travelled to Geneva to negotiate the deal, admitted Balic's signing was a risk.

"You can't be sure about any player before he arrives but the coach was keen to sign him. It's definitely a risk but I'm sure that in the end this won't seem like an expensive signing," Sanz said.

Balic is the sixth addition to the Real squad for next season, following the signings of Cameroon midfielder Geremi Njitap, ex-Liverpool midfielder Steve McManaman, Colombian international Edwin Congo

Toshack, who joined Real from Besiktas midway through last season, recommended the Fenerbahce player immediately and will be hoping desperately to see his judgment vindicated.

For the club, Balic represents a huge investment. The \$15 million paid to Fenerbahce for his services represents the same amount it cost to bring in Predrag Mijatovic and Davor Suker three years ago.

Both players became authentic Bernabeu heroes before leaving the club this summer after becoming surplus to the requirements of the new coach.

Toshack's hopes of making it through a full season at Real will depend to a great extent on whether Balic can become a similar crowd favorite.

Barcelona are looking at the possibility of signing a shirt sponsorship deal for the first time in their history, a Spanish newspaper reported.

In a move that is sure to raise hackles within the 100-year-old club, Barcelona are reported to have contracted the company International Sports Group to assess a possible deal.

According to Barcelona-based newspaper Sport, ISG have been sounding out potential sponsors for the past six months with a number of companies believed ready to pay around 800 million pesetas (\$4.90 million) a year for their logo to be carried on the famous scarlet and blue shirts.

Barcelona have never had a regular shirt sponsor, although they did once carry an advertisement for Japan Airlines when on a Japanese Tour in 1990.

The current Barcelona shirt carries a large club badge above a discreet Nike logo, the sportswear manufacturer that makes the shirts.

If Barcelona were to go ahead with a deal it would leave Athletic Bilbao as the only first division team in Spain without shirt sponsorship.

Compiled by

EUROPE

IN BRIEF

Spanish giants Real Madrid and Barcelona are both pursuing Brazilian star Ronaldo Gaúcho, according to reports.

The 19-year-old Grêmio striker is known as Ronaldo Gaúcho Ronaldinho or Ronaldo Assis to avoid confusion with his more famous Brazil teammate Ronaldo, who plays for Inter Milan in Italy.

Madrid sports paper As, closely linked with Real, reported Real was poised to bid for the striker, who scored a brilliant goal in Brazil's Copa America 7-0 win over Venezuela.

Real president Lorenzo Sanz said "There are means of making him come."

Meanwhile, Barcelona paper Sport claimed the player would like to play for Barça - where his namesake played.

Ronaldo Gaúcho said "I am sure that Barça would be a great opportunity because Romano, Ronaldo and Rivaldo all played there."

Sport reported that the Nou Camp giants would be equally keen to secure the services of the player.

Real Madrid says it will not sell Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf for less than \$30 million.

Italian club Lazio have reportedly made a 4,500 million peseta (\$27.64 million) bid for the 23-year-old former Ajax and Sampdoria player, who had a disappointing season at Real last year.

But Real president Lorenzo Sanz is holding out for more as he continues rebuilding at the troubled Spanish club.

Sanz told Spanish radio "Seedorf will be staying with us unless anyone makes a crazy offer of 5,000 or 6,000 million pesetas (around \$30-35 million)."

"We would sit down and negotiate with a club making that kind of offer."

Fines for red and yellow cards at next year's European soccer championships will be given to young victims of land mines, the tournament's director said.

"All the fines will be put into a fund for children who are victims of anti-personnel mines," Belgian Alan Courtious told a news briefing.

"It shows it's not only sport that matters, these children will never be able to play soccer again," he said on the joint initiative of UEFA, Europe's governing soccer body, and Euro 2000.

He said players could face fines of 1,000 Swiss francs (\$637.3) per yellow card and 3,000 to 5,000 Swiss francs per red card at the tournament in Belgium and the Netherlands, but added this depended on the number of bookings per match and decisions by UEFA's disciplinary committee.

The victims of the World Cup final car crash in the early hours of July 13 last year have been forgotten during the anniversary celebrations of France's World Cup win, claimed the father of one of the injured.

One person died and 147 people were injured, 36 seriously, when Parisian Marie-Paule Moracchini drove into the crowds partying on France's famous Avenue des Champs-Élysées.

In January, the case against Moracchini, later found to be suffering from psychological problems, was dismissed.

Jacques Podesta, president of the "France 98 - the victims of July 13" group and whose daughter was seriously injured, said: "We are celebrating the world title one year on without a word or a gesture for the injured. We cannot go through this anniversary without moral support for these people."

Ajax Amsterdam has paid a club record 19 million guilders (\$8.8 mln) to buy former European top scorer Nikos Machlas from Vitesse Arnhem.

The club said they had signed the Greek striker on a five-year contract. Machlas, 26, scored 60 league goals in his three years with Vitesse. Ajax said this completed their squad plans ahead of the 1999/2000 season.

They had already signed midfielder Jan van Halst from Twente Enschede, goalkeeper Stanley Menzo from Lierse SK of Belgium, VfB Stuttgart defender Frank Verlaet, John Nieuwenburg from Sparta Rotterdam, Aron Winter of Inter and former Danish international Brian Laudrup.

Machlas will probably replace Georgian striker Shota Arveladze who has failed to impress coach Jan Wouters. Turkish side Fenerbahçe is reportedly interested in buying Arveladze, who previously played in the Turkish league for Trabzonspor.



Boris Becker may find himself a formal role with Bayern Munich.

Bundesliga champions, Bayern Munich have started training for the 1999-2000 campaign with the future of mercurial midfielder Mario Basler in doubt.

Bayern commercial manager Uli Hoeness said the club had broken off talks with Basler after the 30-year-old player had turned down terms to stay on.

"It was a very serious offer, but the ideas of the club and the player were a long way apart," Hoeness said. "I can't see us reaching a deal. For us the contract talks are over."

Basler had been hoping to push up his pay towards the five million marks (US\$2.6 million) his midfield colleague, playmaker Stefan Effenberg, is collecting from Germany's richest club.

Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld has a budget of 80 million marks to spend on players. He has invested heavily in new talent, buying Paraguayan teenage striker Roque Santa Cruz for 10 million marks from Olimpia Asuncion and Brazilian midfielder Paulo Sergio from AS Roma for 12 million marks.

But he sought to play down talk that Bayern can, in their centenary year, repeat last season's performance, when the club came within an ace of achieving an historic treble.

It was a runaway winner in the domestic league, but fell at the death in the Champions League final when Manchester United scored two injury time goals, and lost the German Cup final to Werder Bremen on penalties.

"If anyone said to me that we will be Bundesliga champions and reach two cup finals again, then I would say that would be a sensational season," Hitzfeld said.

"The league championship is the top priority - but the competition is getting tougher," he added, adding that other top German clubs had invested heavily in new players.

The two cup final defeats shattered the harmony achieved under Hitzfeld's leadership, with players reverting to the old back-biting that earned Bayern the nickname "FC Hollywood."

Veteran libero Lothar Matthäus has come under fire for his decision to quit Bayern in mid-season to play Major League Soccer in the U.S. for the New York-New Jersey Metro Stars.

"It would have been better for Lothar to leave straight away, or to stay for the whole season," Bayern's German international keeper Oliver Kahn said of the 38-year-old Matthäus, who has played a record 136 times for his country.

Bayern back as Franz Beckenbauer wants Becker

Defender Markus Babel, meanwhile, scotched speculation he would move to Spaniards Real Madrid and confirmed he would serve out his contract before joining English premier league side Liverpool in 2000.

"I've set my heart on staying another year at Bayern and really attacking. When I leave next year, it will be to Liverpool," Babel, who has been capped 40 times for Germany, said.

Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer hopes to hand tennis legend Boris Becker a formal role within the Bavarian club's management it emerged.

"Someone so well-known and charismatic can naturally be of use to Bayern," Beckenbauer told Bunte magazine.

Beckenbauer said he thought newly-retired Becker, a keen Bayern fan, would be the perfect candidate to play an advisory role and said he would be speaking to fellow Bayern dignitaries about bringing him on board.

Bayer Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum has shown himself to be a cut above most managers, by walking on broken glass in a novel bid to motivate his players.

Daum kicked off his shoes and socks and strolled across the glass during a business management course.

"It wasn't dangerous. There's a simple physical trick to it," Daum said. "Nonetheless, it made something click in the players' heads and showed them that they too could overcome such unusual challenges."



The new Bayern Munich team in their new strip.

One is better than two at Hertha

Turkish coach Mustafa Fezer accused German Bundesliga outfit Hertha Berlin of racism in its selection of players for youth teams.

Quoted in the Berlin daily newspaper TaZ, Fezer said that the Bundesliga giants were increasingly discriminating against young foreign players in favor of home-grown talent.

And he claimed that Hertha made a deliberate decision during a meeting of club coaches last January to use fewer foreign children and teenagers.

"If a young German plays well with one foot, a Turk must be good with both feet to have a chance at Hertha," said Fezer, coach of the "E" youth team.

The team has since been disbanded. With the exception of three Germans, all the young players have been sent home, said Fezer.

Angry parents are petitioning Barbara John, who is

in charge of affairs relating to foreigners for the regional government of Berlin.

The coach of the "C" youth team, Uwe Grossmann, backed Fezer, while at the same time acknowledging the advantage of favoring Germans.

"They must play later for Germany," he said.

However, Bernd Wusterhausen, head of Hertha youth team department, denied that there was any discrimination.

"Performances and ability to train are the only criteria," he said.

Levski Sofia players will boycott Bulgarian national teams in a protest against the country's soccer chief, who had said they were "lame horses."

A statement, signed by Levski captain Stanimir Stoilov on behalf of the other 24 players, said Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) president Ivan Slavkov had offended not only the players but also

the club fans.

"That is why we declare that we are ceasing our participation in all national squads as long as this management heads the BFU," the statement said.

Slavkov made his remarks as he was leaving for a FIFA congress and was asked to comment on an ongoing row with the Levski president.

Bulgaria's soccer is plagued by internal rows, accusations of corruption and foul play as well as charges of biased refereeing.

In recent European championship qualifiers national coach Dimitar Dimitrov has relied on Levski goalkeeper Dimitar Ivankov, defender Stoilov and strikers Georgi Ivanov and Georgi Bachev.

Bulgaria, who have virtually lost all chance of qualifying for the Euro 2000 finals, have two more qualifiers to play - in Sweden on Sept. 4 and at home to Luxembourg on October 10.

EUROPE

MOROCCAN MASTER MOVES TO COVENTRY

Deportivo La Coruna's Moroccan international, Mustapha Hadji will sign with Coventry City, according to the player's agent.

Lucidio Ribeiro met Deportivo and Coventry officials in La Coruna to discuss the possible transfer of the midfielder, Africa's Player of the Year in 1998.

"It was a very positive meeting," Ribeiro said. "The deal should be finalised in the next few days."

"We haven't been talking about a loan signing, just a transfer."

Coventry have also been linked in Spanish newspapers with a move for Davor Suker, the Croatian international striker who is currently without a club after leaving Real Madrid.



Mustapha Hadji is off to Coventry.

If Coventry does go ahead with either deal it will hope for a happier outcome than its last foray into the Spanish transfer market.

Twelve months ago, the English club clinched the signing of another Croatian international, Robert Jarni from Real Betis, only for the player to back out at the last minute and join Real Madrid.

BLATTER ... WE HAD NO PART IN IT

Soccer's world governing body, FIFA insisted that it played no part in Manchester United's decision to withdraw from next season's FA Cup.

United pulled out of the competition in order to play in FIFA's inaugural World Club Championship in Brazil in January.

However, speaking on BBC radio from Los Angeles, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said that he regrets the club's decision not to defend the trophy it won last season.

"I regret that (United's withdrawal) because the FA Cup is the best cup competition in the world," Blatter said.

"It is a competition where all teams participate and where it is possible for a lower league team to surprise a big club."

"In the last FA Cup, one of Manchester United's opponents came from the lower divisions (Fulham).

"Therefore, I regret that they won't play but it was their decision. We have never had any contact with Manchester United directly from FIFA to the club because we went through the UEFA channel."

But Blatter believes that the inclusion of United in the tournament will add to the quality of the eight teams involved.

"Naturally we are happy Manchester United is com-



ing to play this first world club competition."

"The qualification for this was through the confederations and we would like to have the champions from each one."

"And we would like to have the last winners of the Toyota Cup who were Real Madrid."

WORLD CUP 2002 MOVING TO ENGLAND?

Football may be coming home four years earlier than the FA's 2006 campaigners have been scheming.

England are on standby to take over the 2002 World Cup from Japan and South Korea after a rebellion of the Asian nations against their limited number of places in the first World Cup Finals to be played there.

Their threat of a boycott of the qualifying competition compels FIFA to make contingency plans in case a solution cannot be found and it becomes unrealistic to take the greatest event in world sport to the Far East.

The Asian delegates rejected appeals not to walk out of the FIFA congress, plunging Sepp Blatter into the first big crisis of his presidency.

He said, "I am shocked because I had agreed with the president of their confederation to look into this problem after the end of the congress."

World football has 60 days in which to reach a settlement, before the Asians hold an emergency congress of their own.

There is no doubt that at this stage England are far more ready to step into the breach than any of their rivals in the bidding campaign for 2006.

Still fresh from the success of Euro 96, England have the modernised grounds, the infrastructure and the organisation still largely in place to put on a World Cup at virtually a moment's notice.

It may be necessary to accelerate the rebuilding of Wembley Stadium, a two-year project which is not due to start until September next year. But if the chance of 2002 does come within England's grasp, the Government will be bound to step in to ensure the early completion of the work.

The governing body of the international game strove to appease the Asians by offering them the chance of a fifth representative in the next Finals via a play-off with the 15th-placed team in Europe's qualifying competition.

UEFA made that offer mindful that it, through its president Lennart Johansson, had pushed through the

unwise decision for Japan and South Korea to co-host 2002.

That compromise has been troubled from the start and this week's announcement that those Finals will have to start as early as May 23 to avoid the monsoon season threatens to cause fixture chaos in Europe.

The hidden problem is that sharing the Finals requires two automatic places for the hosts, instead of the usual one. It is this which is straining FIFA's delicate balance of power.



For the moment, FIFA is taking the official view that the Asian revolt here amounts mostly to sabre-rattling by delegates anxious to save face back home.

But the longer the protests continue and the more frequent the walk-outs, the greater the likelihood that FIFA will run out of patience and seek an alternative venue.

England would not expect to be without competition if 2002 does come up for grabs. The United States have lodged a standing offer to stage any FIFA event following the commercial success of '94.

But while America's facilities are beyond compare, the time cycle would favour England, who have not hosted the World Cup since 1966.

Newcomers Thomas Brdaric and Bernd Schneider helped Bayer Leverkusen to a 3-1 victory over Kaiserslautern in the German League Cup.

Striker Brdaric, who joined the Bundesliga run-

ners-up from second division Fortuna Cologne, scored from close range to level the tie at 1-1 in the 30th minute and midfielder Bernd Schneider, formerly with Eintracht Frankfurt, put his side 2-1 up seven minutes later.

Germany striker Ulf Kirsten completed Leverkusen's victory with 12 minutes remaining from a fine pass by another new player, Brazilian striker Robson Fente, on loan from Brazilian club Guarani.

Kaiserslautern opened the scoring through new signing Jorgen Pettersson of Sweden in the 16th minute.

Kirsten had missed a penalty for Leverkusen after just three minutes in the opening game in the traditional pre-season tournament featuring six teams, the top five in last season's Bundesliga standings and German Cup winners Werder Bremen.

Champions Bayern and Bremen, who upset the Bavarians in the German Cup final, will enter the tournament from the semifinals this week.

Bremen will face Leverkusen while Bayern will meet the winners of Hertha Berlin and Borussia Dortmund.

Michel Preud'homme, Benfica's Belgian international who was rated the best goalkeeper at the 1994 World Cup finals, has announced his retirement as a player and his appointment as director of the club's international relations.

"I will have plenty to do in my new job, such as pursuing contacts with UEFA, FIFA and foreign clubs," said 40-year-old Preud'homme.

Preud'homme will make his final appearance in a friendly against Bayern Munich in the Stadium of Light on August 10.

Benfica, who have not won the league title for five seasons, recently recruited two goalkeepers, Argentine international Carlos Bossio and under 21 German international Robert Enke.

German coach Jupp Heynckes, who won the European Cup with Real Madrid in 1998, has taken the helm at Benfica on a two-year contract.

JUGOVIC LEAVES SPAIN

Inter Milan-bound midfielder Vladimir Jugovic has said a cheerful farewell to Atletico Madrid despite a disappointing season in Spain.

Jugovic, who joined Atletico from Lazio 12 months ago, is returning to Italy with Inter Milan for a fee of around 1,200 million pesetas (\$7.38 million).

The Yugoslav international struggled for form and fitness throughout the season, scoring just three goals and missing over half the season through injury.

But he summed up his Spanish experience as "more positive than negative" as he said goodbye to Atletico players and officials before moving to Italy.

"The only problem has been not being able to play as much as I would have liked," he said.

"But it's been positive. I've had the chance to get to know Spanish football and the fans have been fantastic."



Vladimir Jugovic is off to Inter after having a great run at Atletico Madrid.

UK

BABEL SET TO MOVE AS OWEN SET TO PLAY

Liverpool are almost certain to capture German international Markus Babel — but not until the defender's contract with Bayern Munich expires next summer.

Bundesliga side's general manager Uli Hoenes.

Babel, who said reports of a possible move to Real Madrid were false, added, "I've always intended to remain with Bayern for another year, but when I leave it will be for Liverpool."

"It's a great honour that a prestigious club like Real Madrid should be interested in me. In all honesty, I've decided to go to Liverpool — even if it isn't to be this year, it will be next year."

"I've already made up my mind. I'm definitely going to Liverpool, before the start of the season, or after, when my contract runs out next year."

He continued, "Liverpool's coach Gerard Houllier has clear ideas, there are a lot of good and young players in the squad. Liverpool is a traditional club which can be built up again."

"It's been my childhood dream to play in England, and I really mean that. Apart from that, I know myself and know that the English weather will suit me more than the heat of Spain."

Bayern vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge confirmed: "Everything should become clear in the next one or two weeks."

Liverpool and England star Michael Owen says he will be ready for the first game of the season, and that his recuperation is right on schedule.

Anfield's most valuable asset told waiting media, "If anything, I have benefited from the time off, but at the same time, it will be that bit harder in the pre-season training because I am not yet there now with the hamstring, and I'll be playing catch up with the rest of the squad."

"But it is my intention to be fit for selection for the first game of the season. There is also the European qualifier in Poland which will be so important."

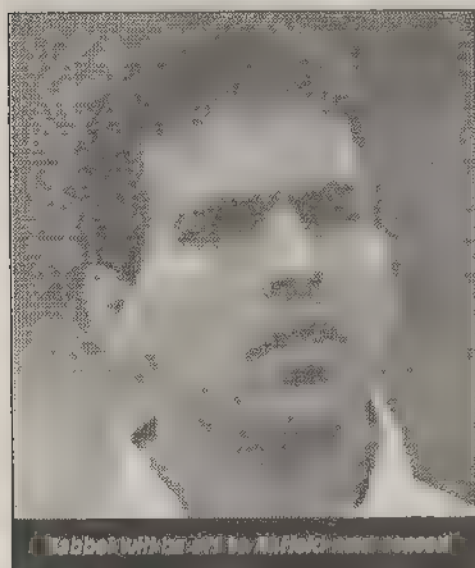
"As regards the injury, I even went on holiday with the physio to Cornwall to get some extra sessions with him. Neither him nor myself wanted this but I am determined to make the start."

"It will be interesting to meet up with all the new lads, and hopefully

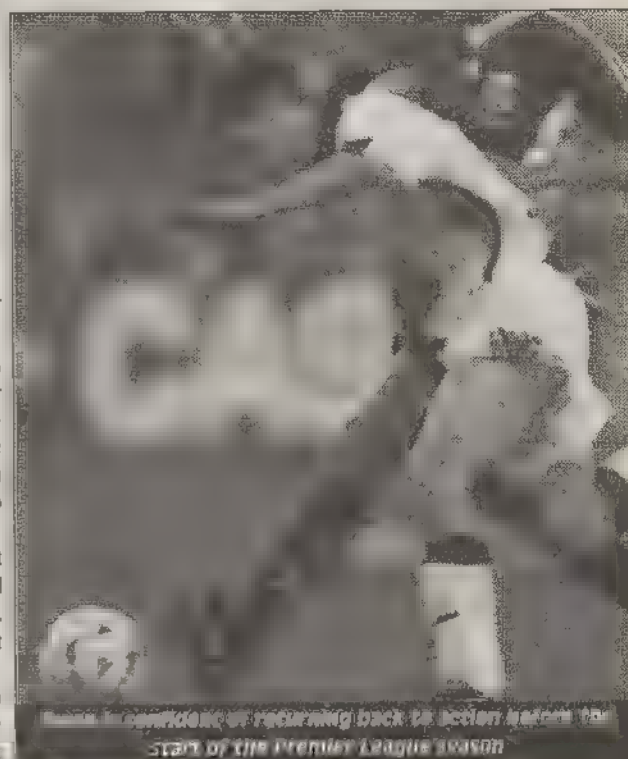
they will complement the existing squad and give us that little bit more, so we can push for the title."

"I will be aiming to get back on the

top of my game. I'm looking forward to the kick-off and I'll be treating the first game like it's my debut," he concluded. Watch out Premiership defences! He scored on his last debut!



Gerard Houllier would like to sign the 26-year-old immediately, but not at the £10m being quoted by the



Owen is expected to return back to action before the start of the Premier League season



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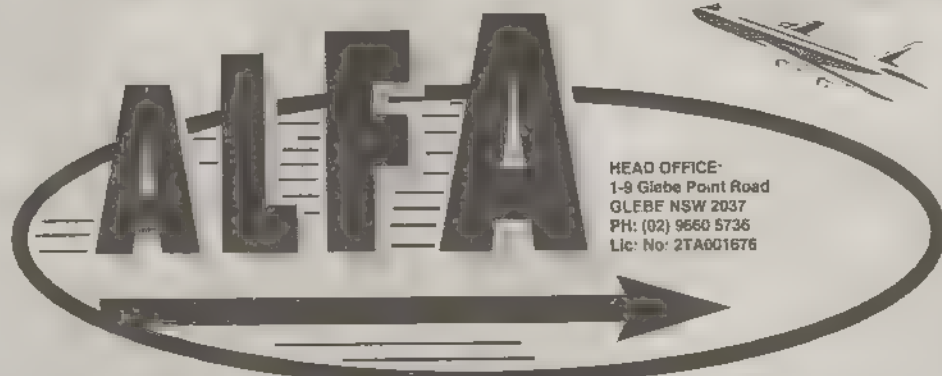
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SCHEICHEL TO PLAY FOR UNITED AGAIN

Peter Schmeichel is poised to make an emotional return to English giants, Manchester United.

Schmeichel has been asked to play in Sir Alex Ferguson's testimonial match at Old Trafford on October 11.

The organising committee have pencilled in Schmeichel's name for a Rest of the World XI to face Ferguson's Treble-winning side.

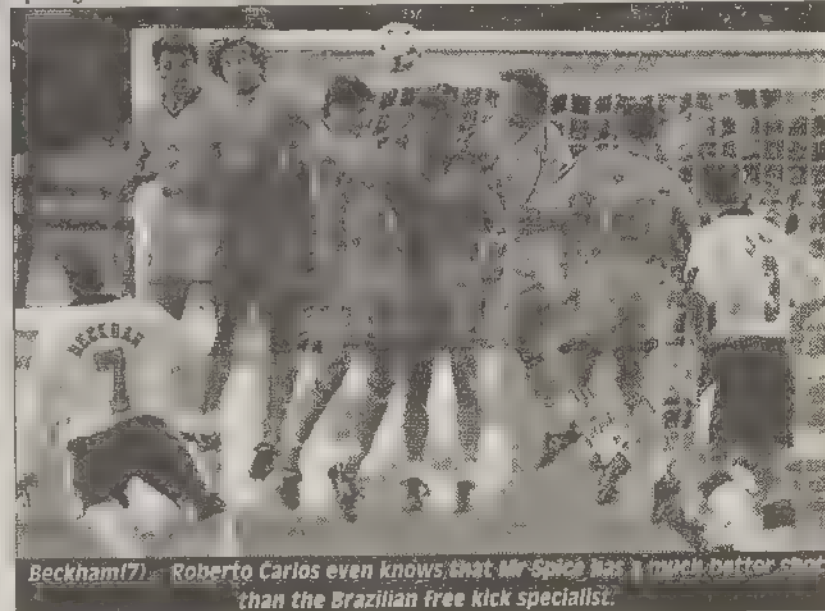
The Danish goalkeeper has indicated he would relish the opportunity to face his old team-mates — if he can get permission from Sporting Lisbon

many friends at United and he has said himself that he would love to return one day.

"He has a lot of respect for Alex Ferguson and will never forget the way in which his decision to leave United was accepted."

After establishing United as the dominant force in European football, Ferguson is guaranteed a massive windfall from the benefit match, which is expected to be sold out within hours.

Schmeichel will have to face his old mate David Beckham, who was this week described as the master of the free-kick by none other than Roberto Carlos.



Beckham(7) Roberto Carlos even knows that Mr Spice has a much better shot than the Brazilian free kick specialist.

Unless his new club object, Schmeichel seems destined to step out at Old Trafford for one last time.

His agent Ole Frederiksen said, "Peter has

The Brazilian star, whose free-kick against France two years ago was widely praised as the best ever, said, "Beckham has got a much better shot from free-kicks than me. He places the ball beautifully."

Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

SHEARER... NO ONE WILL BEAT ME

England striker Alan Shearer believes no-one will ever match his Premiership goalscoring record.

As Shearer is offered a new 40,000 pound-a-week contract at Newcastle, he claims the days of the 30-goal-a-season strikers in the league have gone forever.

Shearer's former Blackburn partner Chris Sutton is the latest forward to move for 10 million pounds-plus, but the Tyne side hero said: "It's getting harder and harder to get to 20 goals, never mind 30."

Shearer, with 153 goals in 216 games, actually scored over 30 goals in three consecutive campaigns between 1993 and 1996.

But despite the wealth of talent now performing in the Premiership front-line — including Michael Owen, Robbie Fowler, Dwight Yorke, Andy Cole, Sutton and himself — he cannot see that mark being matched.

"I am convinced that the days of any striker scoring 30 Premier League goals are long gone — I just don't see it happening again," he said.

"To start with, there are only 38 League games played in the Premiership these days, compared to 42 in its first three seasons. Then there's the undeniable fact that defences have certainly got better in recent seasons.

"There are plenty of top-class strikers playing in the Premier League just now but, believe me, it's getting harder and harder to get to 20 goals, never mind 30.

"Take Dwight Yorke, who got my vote for the PFA Player of the Year.

Alan Shearer

Dwight had a great first season with Manchester

United after leaving Aston Villa and he knocked in 29 goals all told. But eight of them were in the Champions League and three in the FA Cup, which leaves only 18 in the Premier League."

Shearer has an amazing goals-per-game record since the Premiership was formed, and the only other player to have reached 30 League goals in one season in that time is Andy Cole.

In the latest edition of Newcastle United's official magazine Black and White, Shearer added: "Manchester United scored 80 goals in the Premiership, but neither of their two main strikers reached 20, and that's indicative of how hard it is at this level these days.

"In the season just gone, and the one before it, the Premier League top scorers have got 18, and that tells its own story."

Shearer's only championship medal was won when he played along Chris Sutton, who has now moved to Chelsea, at Blackburn Rovers.

He said: "It seems like a lifetime since I was enjoying that with Rovers, and yet it's only four years ago. What a season that was."

In Blackburn's first season after Shearer's 34 goals in 42 matches, he then scored 31 in 35 Premier League games when the League was cut from 42 to 38 games for the first time.

He concludes: "The days of 30 goals in our top leagues have gone. Twenty is proving elusive, 30 out of reach."

Despite his view, Newcastle have made it their priority to tie up a pounds 10m five-year deal with Shearer before the start of the new season.

Shearer, who still has two years to run on his current deal, will be offered a further three years.

And that contract, which will net the Geordies' local hero around 40,000 pounds a week, is designed to keep him with his hometown club until he is 34.

Shearer has learned to live with speculation about his future. But he has made it clear that his ambition is still to win things on Tyneside.

Newcastle have always showed promise in the Premier League but either a bad run of injuries in a loss of confidence throughout the team has led to a sudden slump in the team's fortunes.



Paul Ince has been told that he does not have a future at Anfield.

Gerald Houllier dramatically ended Paul Ince's Anfield career when he told him to stay away from the club.

Houllier said: "I have told him he is not in my plans for Liverpool. He should look elsewhere now."

Ince did not attend Liverpool's first day back in training. Houllier has told the man who was the heartbeat of the England midfield only a few months ago not to bother reporting until the rest of the squad has departed for a training camp in Switzerland.

The Liverpool manager issued his stark message to his former skipper yesterday, saying:

"He will not be in training. It will be better for him to look to his future because he will be leaving. So he won't be going to the training camp in Switzerland."

Houllier has revealed a vicious streak as he attempts to force through controversial changes at Anfield.

He has signed 11 foreigners since assuming control from Roy Evans, with at least two more on the way. He has also forced out British internationals like David James, Rob Jones, Jason McAteer and now Ince.

Houllier and Ince have never seen eye to eye, and Ince has been involved in some outspoken exchanges with members of the coaching staff, including Houllier's No.2 Phil Thompson.

Ince will be forced to train with the youth team while the first-team squad is away on their week-long training camp in the Swiss mountains.

When Houllier returns, he fully expects Ince to have departed, but the situation may not develop quite as smoothly as the Frenchman would like.

Ince is in no hurry to leave the club. He has two years left on a lucrative contract and he would be quite happy to see it out.

He is also nearly 32, and any prospective buyer would have to find around five million pounds to meet Liverpool's probable asking price of 2 million pounds, and the player's contract.

South African striker Sean "Crocodile" Dundee is set to end his Liverpool nightmare by joining Germany's VfB Stuttgart, he revealed.

"I have also had offers from Auxerre and Strasbourg, but I want to play in the Bundesliga," Dundee told German journalists.

"I would like to go to Stuttgart, and I'm pretty sure the move is going to work out," Dundee said after having talks with Stuttgart coach Ralf Rangnick.

"I just want to get playing again," added the former Karlsruhe star, whose career went into reverse at Anfield, where last season he never managed to break into the first team picture.

Dundee was a big hit at Karlsruhe, where he scored 36 goals in 85 matches between 1995 and 1998 — but he failed to dislodge Anfield favourites Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler.

"I've seen that I just don't have a chance with the new coach Gerard Houllier," said Dundee, who took out German nationality while in Germany but failed to make the World Cup squad for France 98.

Liverpool are reportedly ready for him to leave two

Ince told to pack his bags

years before his contract runs out if Stuttgart meet their valuation of 2.5 million dollars.

Bruce Grobbelaar has blamed Liverpool for wrecking David James' international career.

The former Anfield hero is convinced his successor at Liverpool should now be challenging Arsenal's David Seaman for the England No.1 jersey.

But he feels that nobody at his old club tackled what he believes are weaknesses in the 28-year-old's psychological make-up before he moved to Aston Villa for £1.8million earlier this summer.

Former Zimbabwe international Grobbelaar said, "David James has the attributes to be one of the best in the world. He and David Seaman should be the first choice England goalkeepers, but James has to get his head right and believe in himself, that's where his problems are.

"Nobody at Liverpool ever got into his mind, nobody ever worked him out. If I had been given the chance, then I would have got the best out of him. If I ran a team with him in goal, I would get him in the England team."

Former Watford star, James spent six seasons at Anfield before replacing Mark Bosnich at Villa. He has made only one full appearance for England — against Mexico in 1997 — and to many people his talent remains unfulfilled.

Bob Wilson, Seaman's coach at Arsenal, said, "I remember going to Liverpool and watching James with their goalkeeping coach Joe Corrigan. What came through was that Joe could not make him believe how good he was.

"It strikes me that there is an insecurity there that he should not have. He has everything a goalkeeper needs. He has to come back a better person and player soon — and I believe he will."

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier has defended his foreign policy in the transfer market, and hinted he wants one more pre-season signing.

Speaking at a press conference in which he paraded summer signings Sander Westerveld, Sami Hyypia, Titi Camara, Vladimir Smicer, Stephane Henchoz and Erik Meijer, the Frenchman hit back at criticism of his League of Nations squad.

He said, "I said a year ago I would rather make British signings and we have made some significant bids for players. But they were either rejected, or the players were not for sale, or they were put up for sale at a crazy price.

"The club has made a wonderful British signing in investing in an academy which cost £12million and we also have players like Michael Owen, Robbie Fowler, Jamie Redknapp, Dominic Matteo and Jamie Carragher, so the heart and the spirit of the club has been maintained."

Chelsea are another club who has come under attack for the number of foreigners that have been brought to the club.

Both clubs see non-English players as the best chance of winning trophies and don't forget, neither coach is from England.

PREMIERSHIP TOP SCORERS

1992-93 TEDDY SHERINGHAM (Tottenham) 21

1993-94 ANDY COLE (Newcastle) 34

1994-95 ALAN SHEARER (Blackburn) 34

1995-96 ALAN SHEARER (Blackburn) 31

1996-97 ALAN SHEARER (Newcastle) 25

1997-98 CHRIS SUTTON (Blackburn) 18

DION DUBLIN (Coventry) 18

MICHAEL OWEN (Liverpool) 18

1998-99 DWIGHT YORKE (Man Utd) 18

JIMMY HASSELBAINK (Leeds) 18

MICHAEL OWEN (Liverpool) 18

Statistics for league games only

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Soccer Weekly

MOROCCO HITS ENGLAND FOR 2006

Morocco's World Cup bid has come out of the desert to apply the final deception to England's lost week under the California sun.

The FA's campaigners arrived under the illusion that they were favourites to bring football home in 2006.

They will leave under the suspicion that they may be losing even their place as fall-back guys if South Africa's bid fails. FIFA could not have spelled it out more clearly — it wants to give Africa its first World Cup.

President Sepp Blatter said: "It should be well known by now that we reports would like to bring Africa into the rotation of the World Cup among the continents of our planet."

England's best chance has been as replacements in the event of social unrest in South Africa.

But even as Blatter spoke, the North African candidate was being manoeuvred into the back-up position.

Morocco, hardly noticed under the shadow of all the campaigning by England, South Africa and Germany, are optimistic suddenly about their campaign.

When FIFA delayed the 2006 vote from next March to July, it gave the impression it was granting Morocco time to polish their case for presentation in Europe.

Morocco have been encouraged by those close to Blatter, which raises the spectre of England losing out to them.

If the FA thought the Germans were its problem, this ought to have been an instructive few days.

One big question remains unanswered. What, if anything, have England won after a week of lobbying for the night to host the cup in 2006.

Watford boss Graham Taylor has labelled the transfer market 'obscene' and 'laughable' after spending the summer fruitlessly searching for players to supplement his squad.

So far all he has to show for his efforts is centre-back Mark Williams — who signed from lowly Chesterfield — on a free under the Bosman ruling.

At the unveiling of his new Northern Ireland international Taylor showed his frustration at escalating transfer fees and wages.

"Some of the money in this game is obscene and sooner or later we are going to have to stand up and say enough is enough," said Taylor.

"I've made inquiries about quite a few different players this summer and some of the financial terms that have been demanded are laughable. It's pure folly.

"I can say now that football agents are not high on my Christmas card list. The amount of money they take from this game is quite incredible."

28-year-old Williams will be genuinely surprised to find himself playing for a Premiership club at the start of the new season.

A late starter in league football Williams began his career with Third Division Shrewsbury Town at the ripe old age of 21, before moving to Second Division Chesterfield in 1995.

It is only a couple of seasons since the defender was supplementing his football wages by selling golf clubs.

Now he will have the opportunity to play on the same park as multi-millionaires every week.

But Taylor has confidence in his new signing. "I have been keeping an eye on his progress for a long time," he said.

"Mark's a strong competitor with a good defensive instinct. There's no reason why lower division players can't make the step up and thrive on the opportunities available in the Premiership."

In fact Taylor could be accused of using Watford's return to the top flight as a crusade against football's giants.

As if to stress this he added: "People say you have to spend money to achieve success but you can't spend what you haven't got."

"Even if I had £150 million in my pocket the best players wouldn't choose Watford — they'd go to one of the big clubs."

"That's the reason why Watford have invested so heavily in our youth system and soon we will reap the dividends."

Taylor continued, "I like the fact we have no household names in our squad but everyone will have the chance to be one now."

"Even if we're relegated some of these guys will never play outside the Premiership again. We will be under the microscope but we're keeping our values and standards."



WENGER... NO MORE ANELKA

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger is getting ready for life without Nicolas Anelka as he concentrates on preparing the squad for the new season.

With Anelka still adamant he wants to move to Italy's Lazio for some 30 million dollars, Wenger is resigned to getting on with the job without the striker.

"There are no new developments. Something could happen in the next few days. It is hard to tell," said Wenger.

"I don't really have too much time to even think about Anelka now because we have started pre-season training and I am concentrating on the players who are here."

Wenger, who tried to persuade his fellow Frenchman that another season in the Premiership would be of greater benefit to his development, was not involved in negotiations set up with Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti.

Flanked by his son and club director Massimo, the Rome club's supremo also had Lazio's FIFA-registered agent Vincenzo Morabito with him aboard a 10.20am flight from Ciampino to London.

The trio had a top-level meeting with Arsenal's influential vice-chairman David Dein, the man Anelka has accused of stalling the deal and wanting to squeeze out "as much money as he can get for me".

But Arsenal refused to confirm that any such meeting did take place and a Highbury media spokeswoman said: "We know nothing about it."

Anelka's first-choice move after he made it clear he would walk out on his new five-year contract at Highbury would be to Real Madrid, but Arsenal will not deal with the Spanish club after reporting them to FIFA for an alleged illegal approach to the player.



Arsene Wenger has admitted Anelka is not staying at Arsenal.

Steve Bould accepted with an air of stoicism that his membership of Arsenal's back four had expired.

But, as the 36-year-old defender contemplated a new life with First Division champions Sunderland, he lamented the decision of former team-mate Nicolas Anelka to take the money and run.

Striker Anelka, poised to join Lazio for reported wages of £60,000 a week, would according to Bould — 11 years a loyal Gunner — be better off remaining at Highbury for a couple more seasons.

"I wish he was staying at Arsenal because he is a great player," said Bould.

I believe another two years under Arsene Wenger would have done him big favours.

"It's all about money, though. Football is big business and who can knock him for what he is going to earn?"

Bould's move for a knockdown £400,000 fee will be for more modest financial rewards. With another 12 months of his contract to run, he could easily have remained at Arsenal but the promise of regular Premiership football tipped the scales in favour of Wearside.

"Arsenal didn't want me to leave," he added. "Arsene Wenger has been top class. He said that if

someone came in for me, he would let me go if that's what I wanted. It's a chance of regular first-team football. But it was Arsene's fitness regime which has probably extended my career by two years, maybe more."

Sunderland boss Peter Reid has finally landed his man at the third attempt. Bould revealed: "Reidy was coach at Everton back in 1988 when I was at Stoke and he wanted me to join him but I went to Arsenal."

"He spoke to me again when he was manager at Manchester City."

CELTIC TO GIVE VIDUKA A CHANCE

Australian international striker Mark Viduka is expected back for practice with his Celtic teammates meaning he will miss the Manchester United tour this week.

Even though he will be 48 hours late — the club initially expected him back Monday — there will be no disciplinary action.

Viduka's work permit has only recently been renewed and Celtic has taken that into consideration.

Celtic handed Viduka an ultimatum to return to Glasgow after the striker finally received a new work permit.

Viduka had been hoping to play two friendlies for Australia against Manchester United later this month but Celtic is anxious for him to report back to prepare for the August 1 Premier League opener against Aberdeen at Pittodrie.

The player's representatives spent the weekend trying to fix up flights between Melbourne, where the player has been vacationing, and Glasgow.

One of his first duties on Wednesday will be to have a chat with Celtic's new management team of Kenny Dalglish and John Barnes.

Viduka's agent Bernie Mandic said: "We always said that when Mark's work permit was done then he would return to Celtic. The matter has always been cut and dried as far as we are concerned."

Meanwhile, French Under-21 international Olivier Tebily was set to undergo a medical in Glasgow before completing a two million dollar move to Celtic.

The Ivory Coast-born defender, who joined Sheffield United for 300,000 from French minnows

Chateauroux last March, hugely impressed new Celtic coach John Barnes in just seven appearances for the Blades.

Celtic's French defender Stephane Mahe persuaded Tebily it was in his interest to make the move north and Tebily said he could hardly wait to pull on the green and white-hooped shirt.

"It will be sad for me to leave Sheffield, but Celtic are a very big club with a proud history, and this will be a whole new challenge for me in my career," Tebily told the Scottish Express.

"Celtic are expected to challenge for cups and championships every year and that's a big pressure for any player."

"But I have spoken to Stephane and he told me about the club and the city of Glasgow."

He likes it here, and I hope I will too."

West Ham's Israeli midfielder Eyal Berkovic is on the point of signing for Celtic as coach John Barnes looks for someone to supply ammunition for Swedish hitman Henrik Larsson.

Berkovic, involved in a training ground bust-up with former Hammer John Hartson last season, would cost around eight million dollars but West Ham boss Harry Redknapp is resigned to him.

"There is a mutual agreement between myself and West Ham that I won't return to the club," said Berkovic.

"I'm very happy about that and I'm hopeful that I will be a Celtic player."

Aston Villa's troubled striker Stan Collymore is having transfer talks with the Greek club Panathinaikos, Aston Villa manager John Gregory said.

Gregory said the 28-year-old former England international flew to Athens over the weekend after Villa accepted a 3 million pounds (US\$4.73 million) offer for its record 7 million pounds (US\$11.03 million) signing.

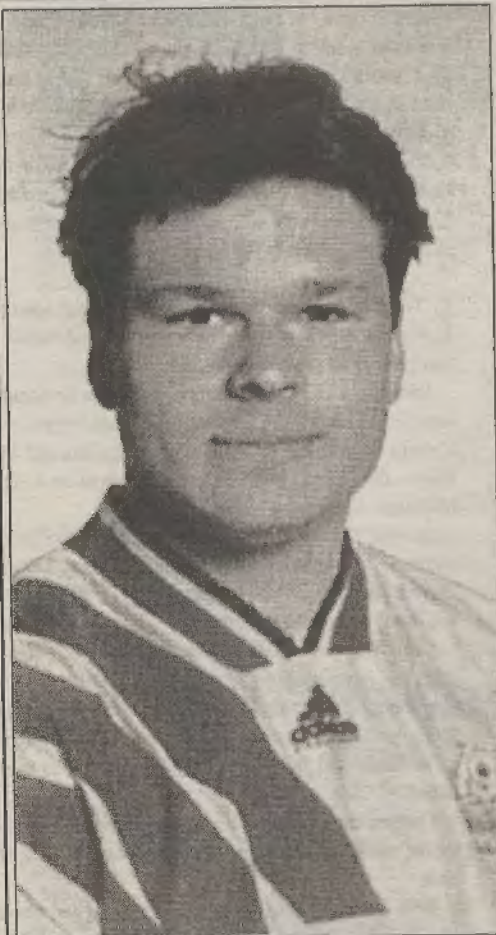
Gregory said: "I don't yet know how the talks went. At the moment we are still awaiting developments."

Celta Vigo in Spain have also confirmed their interest in Collymore who missed the last three months of last season while he received treatment for clinical depression.

He reported back for preseason training with Villa on Friday, but Gregory admitted: "Life would be a lot simpler for all concerned" if Collymore were to leave.

He said he had not been given a squad number for the new season and has been told he will not be included in the Villa squad travelling to New York later this month to compete in a four-team tournament.

Ironically, if Collymore signs for Panathinaikos, he could be playing against Villa in the same competition.



Viduka was hoping to play against Man United but Celtic has put the brakes on that idea.



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CHELSEA GOES AGAINST TREND TO SIGN SUTTON

After leading the way in English soccer's chase for big foreign stars, Chelsea changed direction by paying 10 million pounds (US\$16 million) for Blackburn Rovers' Chris Sutton.

The 26-year-old striker, whose international experience for England has been limited to one appearance as a substitute against Cameroon, has signed a six-year contract with the Blues.

Chelsea has been on the lookout for a striker since Pierluigi Casiraghi was sidelined for the best part of a year with serious knee ligament damage and Gianluca Vialli decided to stop playing and concentrate on being the team manager.

Chelsea has gained a reputation for signing and fielding overseas stars and has frequently sent out lineups with only one or two English players.

Sutton's departure from Blackburn seemed certain after the team was relegated from the Premier League last season.

His arrival at Stamford Bridge comes a month after Chelsea signed French World Cup star Didier Deschamps from Juventus.

Signed by Blackburn from Norwich for a then British record fee of 5 million pounds (US\$8 million) in July 1994, Sutton teamed up with Alan Shearer and helped Rovers win the Premier League title.

His transfer to Chelsea is the third highest between British clubs, following the 15 million pounds (US\$24 million) Newcastle paid Blackburn for Shearer and the 12.6 million (US\$20.16 million) Manchester United paid Aston Villa for Dwight Yorke.

At Stamford Bridge, Sutton is likely to team up in attack with Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo and



Tore Flo (9), Zola and Sutton... Chelsea's new main men for the coming season

experienced Italian forward Gianfranco Zola.

This will leave Vialli with having one of the deadliest strike partnerships on paper and hopefully the three can gel together on the park for the Blues.

ROY IS KEANE ON BECOMING WORLD'S BEST

Roy Keane has admitted he and his fellow Manchester United stars are disappointed at not being able to defend the FA Cup next season, but that they will go with the decision to try and conquer the world.

The Reds, of course, are forsaking a bid for their 12th FA Cup triumph in favour of a New Year jaunt to Brazil when they will aim to become the inaugural World Club Champions against the likes of Real Madrid, the African champions and those from the Far East and the Southern Hemisphere.

Uproar at home, plenty of critics abroad, along with the odd word of support, has been the order of the last ten days, ever since United declared the intention, under pressure from the FA — and, in turn, the Government — to miss the greatest domestic Cup competition of anywhere around the globe.

But United skipper Keane, who limped off injured in last season's Cup final win over Newcastle and then missed the European Cup success against Bayern Munich through suspension, is setting his sights firmly on taking the club into the latest competitive arena of football.

Keane declared: "It's a shame and I'm sure the discussions will go on for a long time but, as the manager and the chairman both said, something had to give. The players are disappointed and hopefully it will only be for one season and then we'll be back."

"There is, though, pride and honour in this new event — and no matter what we had done, we would have been

criticised, but what's done is done and so basically it's down to us just to get on with it."

Keane and the United boys, minus the recently-married Beckham, are about to head Down Under for a quick tour of Australia, followed by a two-game stretch in China as part of the build up towards the Premiership campaign — and the Charity Shield curtain-raiser against rivals and League runners-up, Arsenal on August 1.

There is only one new signing on view, Mark Bosnich, the Villa goalkeeper — although he could hardly have a greater challenge ahead than replacing the mighty Peter Schmeichel, now in Portugal with Sporting Lisbon after eight glittering years at Old Trafford.

While Bosnich may have seen it all before, having first signed for United as an apprentice in 1991 before work permit problems, the majority of Fergie's Treble-winning men were not around at that time.

However, Keane has no doubts that the Aussie international will play a big part in another season of success for United.

Looking as mean and lean as ever, the inspirational Irish captain added: "We knew Mark was on his way a few weeks ago and the great thing about this club is great players have left and yet we've always carried on winning things."

"Peter has left, Mark's now here, we'll soon get to know him and anyway Mark seems a confident lad, which he needs to be."

DAVIDS TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE GOLIATHS OF ENGLAND

Alex Ferguson is to strengthen his treble-winning Manchester United team with the £10million signing of Juventus midfielder Edgar Davids.

After weeks of painstaking behind-the-scenes negotiations, Old Trafford manager Ferguson is close to securing the fiery Holland star, who made a huge impact in the Champions League semi-final confrontation between Juventus and United last season.

Ferguson is keen for Davids to link up with the equally combative Roy Keane, even though the Republic of Ireland midfielder has yet to sign a new contract.

It was Davids, rather than France midfield partner Zinedine Zidane, who ran the Juve show in the first leg at Old Trafford with an awesome display which came close to wrecking Ferguson's European dreams.

That fact stuck in the manager's mind during the summer break and he was alerted that Davids could be available when the Dutchman was mentioned as a possible makeweight as Juventus tried to lure Lazio's Christian Vieri to Turin.

Although Vieri eventually decided on a move to Inter Milan, it left Davids pondering his future.

Ferguson wasted no time in trying to seal the deal which is bound to leave the rest of the Premiership in fear of the bite and menace in United's midfield.

A board meeting is believed to have rubberstamped the move for the 26-year-old World Cup star.

Having secured Peter Schmeichel's successor in the shape of Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, Ferguson publicly expressed his ambition to make one more major signing to bolster an already envied squad for the

increased demands of next season's extended Champions League.

Davids is a close friend of United's Jaap Stam, who has been such a success in his 12 months with the club, and it is understood that the Dutch defender has been involved in the transfer discussions.

Ferguson will be hoping that Davids, who had an unhappy spell with AC Milan after leaving boyhood team Ajax, can make the same impact as £12.6m striker Dwight Yorke, who arrived from Villa last August.

United insist that the arrival of Davids will not mean any of the stars who helped United to the unprecedented treble of Premiership, European Cup and FA Cup are leaving.

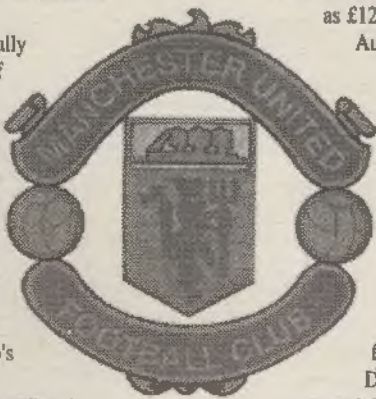
Ferguson knows he has only to pick up the telephone to clinch outgoing moves for the likes of England stars Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt, and Norwegian striker, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, but the manager firmly believes he needs virtually two full teams to keep United at the pinnacle of European football.

Davids is expected to agree a five-year contract worth around £30,000 a week in the next week and become a United player before the club embarks on a pre-season tour of Australia and the Far East.

Davids, if he goes to United, will make the Treble winning club the most feared team in the world and the depth that the squad now has, is greater than many national teams.

One thing is for certain, Australian Mark Bosnich will definitely represent his new club and not his country on the tour.

The Australian FA has asked Manchester United to release the star keeper but manager, Alex Ferguson denied the offer.



Davids is set to sign with Manchester United.



Copa America hots up!

